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MEDFORD, MASS.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of_____Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XIX. JANUARY, 1916. No. 1.

LAFAYETTE'S VISIT TO MEDFORD.

PEOPLE AND INCIDENTS RELATING THERETO REVIEWED.

IT was a proud day for many a town in our land when the body politic, or one of its prominent citizens, received and entertained Lafayette during his tour of the country in 1824 as the nation's guest.

The distinguished Frenchman was greeted everywhere with enthusiastic expressions of gratitude for his magnificent services to our country when she threw off the yoke of allegiance to the mother country, and for his unswerving loyalty to the principles of liberty.

Showered with attentions and invitations from every quarter, with so many towns and private individuals desirous of doing him honor, it was only due to *one* fact that Medford, so small a place, and so near the scene of the grand celebration in Boston, should have had the opportunity of welcoming him in her own precincts. It must be remembered that *Plymouth*, much as *she* coveted the distinction of a visit from the hero, believing that Plymouth Rock, the stepping-stone to liberty, would draw *there* one so devoted to the cause of freedom, was doomed to disappointment.

Medford was very fortunate at that time in having among her citizens one who was preëminently popular and widely known — John Brooks, the beloved physician, who had just completed eight years of service to Massachusetts as her chief executive, and who was well fitted to receive the great general. Beyond this lay his fine military record, and the fact which gave greater prestige to the occasion was his having been a brother officer with Lafayette and Washington in the war of the Revolution. As a *personal* friend the marquis came to visit

his former comrade-in-arms at the latter's home on High street (site now occupied by the Medford Savings Bank). Fortunate are they who remember the old colonial house.

While Lafayette was in this vicinity, Dr. Brooks was much in his company. Early in the week of festivities Governor Eustis had given a dinner for the marquis, to which the latter's old friends had been invited, among them being Brooks, and when Lafayette appeared on the balcony of the house on Park street, Boston, which had been prepared for his lodging, to receive the ovation of the people, the governor and ex-governor were with him in their old Continental uniforms. Brooks and Eustis, up to this time, had not been on friendly terms, but by the considerate and careful procedure of a friend, the latter came to Medford, called on Brooks, and the breach was healed.

Boston, which Lafayette had left a town at the time of the Revolution, had become a city two years previous, and she exerted herself to welcome and entertain, in a manner befitting the guest's rank, the titled yet democratic Frenchman. Brooks had been appointed chairman by the Society of the Cincinnati of Massachusetts,

to consider what measures it will be proper for this society to adopt on the arrival of this our distinguished brother.

The bond between the original members of this society was very strong.

On Tuesday, August 24, 1824, Boston gave Lafayette her hearty reception. After he had been met and addressed by the mayor of the city at the Roxbury line, and the procession had passed through the principal streets, he was received in the Senate chamber by the governor and his council. Many gentlemen were then introduced to him —

officers of the United States, of the State and city; members of the Society of the Cincinnati, with their venerable and distinguished President, Hon. John Brooks, late Governor of the Commonwealth. La Fayette recognized his old military and personal friend, at the first sight, and embraced him with great cordiality and affection.

A few days later the whole Society of the Cincinnati waited on Lafayette and the president addressed the assembly.

When the guest visited Charlestown, Friday, the 27th of August, the two comrades were again together, and when Brooks told him about the association formed for erecting the monument to commemorate the battle of June 17, 1775, Lafayette was pleased and interested, and asked to be considered a subscriber to the Bunker Hill Monument Association.

August 28 was the great gala day in Medford, and probably nearly all of the town's population, then about eighteen hundred, turned out to see the general and give him a royal welcome. As soon as the procession entered the town, coming by way of West Cambridge (the Arlington of today), the salutes began. Bells rang, cannon pealed, garlands of flowers and flags greeted the vision of the guests. The school children of the town were drawn up in line, and with them were those of Miss Bradbury's private school. An arch over the street opposite the front door of the meeting-house bore the appropriate motto, "Welcome to our hills and BROOKS."

At the close of Lafayette's reply to the speech of welcome made by Turell Tufts, the chairman of the selectmen, the procession, escorted by the Medford Light Infantry, moved on to Brooks' house. Here an opportunity was given the people, including the children, to greet the marquis. The throng entered by the front door on the south side and passed out by the east door. Later a dinner was served, twenty-five being present. Charles Brooks, who thirty years later was to become Medford's first historian, was of this privileged company. Others were General Sumner, Major Swett, Rev. Andrew Bigelow, who asked the blessing, all of Boston, Rev. George Burnap of Baltimore, Dr. Swan and Dudley Hall of Medford. George Stewart of Canada, grandson of the host, is said to have been present, and his daughter-in-law, widow of Col. John Brooks, presided at the table.

The following, from the newspapers of the day, published in book form November, 1824, while the events described were fresh in the minds of all, gives us as accurate an account as can be obtained, and is of especial value to those who are not fortunate enough to own a copy of Brooks' History of Medford, which contains the selectman's speech of welcome, not inserted by Usher: —

Saturday, after receiving the salutations of the citizens, who were desirous of being presented to him, he set off for Medford, to visit his particular and valued friend, Governor Brooks. His reception in this beautiful village, is represented as very interesting. The citizens had comparatively short notice of the visit to that place; but they greeted him with great cordiality, and the honors bestowed were not unworthy of their distinguished guest. The main streets and the houses which he passed, before he reached the mansion of Governor Brooks, were filled with children and people, who repeatedly bid him welcome, with great cordiality, and expressed their gratitude and joy on beholding the man, who they had learned, had done so much for their beloved country; and who was the reputed friend of one among them, whom they always delighted to honor. A company of artillery fired a salute, as he entered the village; and several arches were thrown across the street, decorated with flags, and wreaths of flowers and evergreens. Under one of them he was met by the selectmen, one of whom thus addressed him —

"General La Fayette,

"The selectmen of Medford, as the representatives of the town, deem it a grateful and honorable part of their duty to bid you welcome.

"They are proud, sir, that Medford is the birthplace of one of your companions in arms, — a man, who, by his bravery in the field, his patriotism and civic virtues, contributed to acquire as much glory to our country, as honor to himself.

"We rejoice, sir, that you both live to meet again, and to enjoy together the consolations fairly derived from your virtuous and heroic deeds.

"The minds of our countrymen traced your course with anxious solicitude, through the French revolution, from your first success in the cause of liberty, until the spirit of oppression confined you to a dungeon; and their hearts were gladdened, when, by the influence of our great and good Washington, their friend was at last set free. In the rich harvest you are now gathering of the expressions of esteem and gratitude of this numerous people, whose freedom and happiness your exertions so essentially contributed to

establish, we hope you will find some compensation for all your trials, sacrifices and sufferings; and we feel much complacency, that, in this respect you have gained so complete a triumph over the monarchs of the world.

"Again, sir, we bid you a most cordial welcome; and hope, the testimonials of approbation you are receiving from every heart and tongue, will forever remain an instructive lesson to mankind, that patriots who endure faithfully to the end, shall not lose their reward."

The General said in reply — "I am most happy in visiting my old brother soldier and friend, General Brooks, to be received with so kind a welcome. You speak of *compensation*, sir; the smallest part of the delights which I have experienced in America, would more than repay me for all my services and all my sufferings."*

Medford was further honored by the presence of Lafayette, for he called on our Revolutionary heroine, Mrs. John Fulton (born Sarah Bradlee). At this time he presented her with a breast-pin, now in possession of descendants of hers (Rindge family) in Cambridge.

He also dined at Dudley Hall's in the house still standing on the north side of High street, No. 57. The story of this dinner party has never before been in print. It was natural that Mr. Hall, neighbor and intimate friend of John Brooks, and who was a man of wealth and prominence in the town, should have had the opportunity of having Lafayette as his guest. Mr. Hall, without doubt, did his friend many favors, and the latter could have easily obtained Lafayette's acceptance for this occasion.

The dinner was a pleasant social affair, carried on in the hospitable, home-like, old-fashioned way, where good American help gave capable, cheerful and interested service. Mrs. Hall, with the assistance of the sister of her husband's foreman, both of whom were for many years in the employ of the Hall family, cooked the dinner, and this excellent New England woman had a vivid remembrance forever of the day, and used to tell her nieces and nephews of the various dishes served at the different courses. Three tablecloths were spread on the table,

* Brooks' History contains an account of this speech, which varies from this in a few minor details.

one over the other. When one course was finished and the dishes removed the top cloth was taken off and the next course was brought in.

Furniture and fine old silver used then is in use in the Hall family today. The late Dudley C. Hall, then a child six years of age, well remembered the grand occasion, and of shaking hands with his father's guest.

John Brooks, of course, was present, and the time of the event we may be able to fix, for the conversation turned on the subject of the ability of being able to assemble the militia at short notice. Brooks wanted to show Lafayette how quickly he could muster thousands of fighting men in about four days. This was the time my informant said he thought was mentioned.

On Monday, August 30, a grand review of the militia was held on Boston Common at the instance of Governor Eustis, and Brooks, knowing what was being prepared for the entertainment of the general, naturally had great interest in the coming spectacle, and led the conversation to the subject.

This military show, an assembling of six thousand troops, was considered a very fine affair, and was a source of pride to Massachusetts.

Mr. Hall's dinner party may have occurred on Saturday, August 28, the same day Brooks gave his dinner to Lafayette.

The Hall foreman was in the ranks at the military review, and told his children, years afterward, of seeing the general, and that he was old and lame. He thought it an occasion worthy to be told to future generations, for thousands were assembled there.

We all recall Washington's advice, " In time of peace prepare for war," and considering the much-talked-of subject today — whether the United States shall or shall not maintain adequate military force in view of the awful conditions prevailing in Europe — it will not be amiss to quote the following concerning Lafayette's opinion on the subject as given at the time of his visit to the

Charlestown Navy Yard, on the day before he came to Medford: —

He agrees entirely with those enlightened politicians of our country, who have always considered a naval force of great advantage to America, if not absolutely necessary to Independence.

His toast at the military dinner on the Common in Boston was,

The patriotic troops who have paraded this day, they excite the admiration of every beholder, and fill the heart with delight.

The selectmen's records show that no great expense was incurred for the local celebration, and the whole simple story is told in the following: —

Paid	
Henry Chapman for Ensigns	$5.00
Darius Waitt work etc. on reception	6.87
James Hyde decoration of street	2.00
James W. Brooks for horse and chaise to Lexington for bass drum	3.12
Joseph Swan cash pd. for oil etc. & for flags	33.48
	$50.47

Could we of today entertain so distinguished a visitor as a French marquis, who had been a great general, with a sum like that? Yet we may well ask, would our feelings be any more sincere than those of our townsmen in the simple days of old, or could we offer hospitality more gracefully and elegantly, or that would be more acceptable?

When Lafayette made his visit to New Hampshire, Peter C. Brooks and Ignatius Sargent, Boston citizens, the former also of Medford, accompanied him as aides.

The next year Lafayette returned to this region to lay the corner stone of Bunker Hill Monument, June 17, 1825, the fiftieth anniversary of the battle in Charlestown. Of this memorable occasion we will only mention such items as concern our town's connection with it.

Sixteen military companies did escort duty that day and Medford's company was of the number, a fact to be proud of. Boston and five towns beside ours were represented by their citizen soldiery. Our neighbor, Col.

Samuel Jacques of "Ten Hills Farm," was chief marshal of the procession, and had Lafayette as his guest.

Lafayette's friends, Brooks and Eustis, with the former of whom he had carried on a correspondence, had both passed on before this time. The lives of these friends, in point of years, were nearly identical. John Brooks was born May 31, 1752, and died March 1, 1825. William Eustis was born June 10, 1753, and died February 6, 1825, while Lafayette was born September 6, 1757, and died May 20, 1834. The first two were physicians, the latter a pupil of Joseph Warren, and each served the state as its chief executive. The three served in the Revolutionary war, and with such significant incidents what would it not have meant to this trio if they could all have participated in the events of that wonderful day! We can but think that sad memories came to the survivor, even in the midst of the splendors and exciting interest of the exercises.

Three of Medford's daughters have given us accounts of Lafayette's visit and the reception attending it, either in Boston or here, though their descriptions are brief. Lydia Francis was then a charming young girl of twenty-two, having the *entree* of the best society in Boston and Cambridge. She was already known as a writer, and in 1825 issued her "Evenings in New England," which mentions Lafayette's entry into Boston and the reception given him, of which she was an eye-witness. We know her better as Mrs. Child, her married name, which she assumed in 1828.

Miss Lucy Osgood, who was personally unknown to me, but whom I recall as one of the celebrities of Medford, was then over thirty years of age, and we have her story of the day, in a letter in her vigorous style, which was published in the REGISTER, October, 1907, page 90.

Mrs. Harriet (Jordan) Rowe, whose reminiscences in the REGISTER, July, 1912, page 73, were written at my request, had the story from the lips of her mother, who was then about ten years old, was in line with the school

children, and shook hands with the general. Mrs. Rowe also says her mother's father was captain of the Medford company that assisted in receiving the visitors.

Six years after his visit to America Lafayette was introduced to Maria (Gowen) Brooks, a pleasing young widow, then in Europe with her brother. She was Medford born, and has given fame to her native place as a poetess of imagination and brilliancy, known as Maria del Occidente. Like a gallant Frenchman, Lafayette was susceptible to feminine charms, and so pleased was he with Mrs. Brooks that he was eager to befriend her, and learning that she desired for her son an appointment to a United States military academy, he procured it for her, a favor which she had been unable to attain.

To come in touch with a great event of the past, with but one person between it and ourselves as a connecting link, gives greater significance to that event, and a more vivid realization of it than if we read an account from the printed page. So receptions to Lafayette, and the honors bestowed upon him in this vicinity, seem real to me for the following reasons. My maternal grandmother, at the impressionable age of eighteen, from an excellent position on Park street, witnessed the ovation given America's great guest by the city of Boston. She was never tired of relating the story to me, nor of repeating those lines composed by Charles Sprague for the occasion, and inscribed on an arch thrown across Washington street —

Welcome, Lafayette.
The fathers in glory shall sleep,
That gathered with thee in the fight;
But the sons will eternally keep
The tablet of gratitude bright.
We bow not the neck; we bend not the knee;
But our hearts, Lafayette, we surrender to thee.

The account of the dinner at Dudley Hall's was told by one whose father and aunt were in the employ of the Hall family at that time (see REGISTER, July, 1912, page 65).

The Eustis coach, in which Lafayette rode, now finds a resting-place in the carriage house of the Wayside Inn at Sudbury, where, seated in the quaint old vehicle a few years ago, I dreamed away some pleasant hours trying to bring before my mental vision a picture of those historic days. This old coach, still in a good state of preservation, has been an object of interest in several processions. It was used September 17, 1880, at the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the settlement of Boston. Members of the New England Historic Genealogical Society occupied fourteen carriages in the parade, and in the Eustis coach were Marshall P. Wilder, president of the society, and Benjamin G. Smith, marshal, both of whom I well knew. I count it a great privilege to have had the acquaintance of these gentlemen of the old school, with their courtly, dignified manners.

In my zeal for seeing historic places I visited Shirley Hall, the home of Governor Eustis. Though shorn of much of its magnificence, there was enough left, though it had been moved from its original site and the spacious rooms had been divided into several small ones, to show what an elegant residence it had been in its prime. There Lafayette spent the night, and many distinguished men had been welcomed under its roof.

I have in my possession one of a set of six champagne glasses given me by a lady long a resident of Medford, only lately having removed from the city, that came to her husband in a direct line from the Dexter family of Medford, with the story that the glasses were used at a dinner given to Lafayette.

Possibly, as was done in Marblehead to fittingly entertain Washington, all the well-to-do families were levied upon for silver and suitable table-ware to lay the table in some home where the general was a guest, for it may be that other feasts were given in our town of which no mention has been made in print, as in the case of the Hall dinner. In earlier, simpler days what good housewife did not borrow of some neighbor a few spoons or

glasses to grace her table for distinguished guests or extra company?

There is today a fine large elm in Kennebunk, Me., under whose shade Madame Storer, the great lady of the town, entertained Lafayette. With two friends' hands clasped in each other's, our out-stretched arms just encircled its huge trunk.

In many towns the receptions were at night, and houses along the route of Lafayette's journey were illuminated and bonfires were built on the hills. This was the case in Bolton, in this state, where, after a short visit to Concord, he spent the night at the mansion of Samson V. S. Wilder, a personal friend. Mr. Wilder, a man of wealth who had spent years abroad, knew Lafayette in Paris, and owned the finest estate in the town. I once had the pleasure of going through the grounds. The summer-house was built in the style of the one on the Royall House grounds, in that it had a receptacle made like a well for keeping food cool.

Persons, events and places which I have mentioned in this paper seem to have a relationship one to the other, and just here you may notice another instance of it, for the wife of Mr. Wilder was born in Medford in the old Watson house on High street, only removed a few years ago. After John Brooks left the eastern half of this house, Joseph Barrel, Jr., of Boston, became the next tenant. His wife was Miss Electa Bingham of Boston, and there is the record of two children being born here to this couple in 1796 and 1799. One of these, Electa Barrel, became the bride of Samson V. S. Wilder, who was noted in Bolton for his lavish hospitality, where he lived for a number of years.

Bolton also is the birthplace of our venerable townswoman, Miss Zipporah Sawyer, who has assisted so many in our educational careers. As a child five years of age she remembers the illumination that night for the distinguished guest, and the occasion is particularly impressed on her mind, for the fence in front of her father's house was set on fire by some light placed upon it.

Hero worship began early with me. For no reason that I can give, before I was nine years old Daniel Webster had caught my imagination, and stories about him, and his pictures, have had a fascination for me from that time. In later years I stood beside his burial-place in Marshfield with a feeling of reverence. He was the orator at the laying of the corner-stone of Bunker Hill Monument, and again at its completion in 1847. My father, as a young man, was present at the latter occasion, and from his lips I had the story of his seeing this great man, and of the immense throng gathered there.

A later hero that strongly appealed to me was Edward Everett, who died fifty years ago, January 15, 1865. In my first scrap-book, begun in childhood, I put a piece by T. W. Persons on the death of Everett. When in riper years I discarded this book, I took from it this one piece and placed it in another that I have today.

When Edward Everett made the speech of welcome to Lafayette in 1824 at the old church in Cambridge, it is said he brought tears and cheers from his hearers, comprising one of the finest audiences in America, when at the close of his Phi Beta Kappa address he turned to the visitor whom America delighted to honor.

Although these reasons may seem insignificant and trivial to you, yet the persons, places and events I have mentioned are to me the links of a perfect circle, a full round story of Lafayette's visit to Medford, and the people with whom he came in touch.

ELIZA M. GILL.

SOME NOTES FROM MY SCRAPBOOK.

TWO-PENNY BROOK.

TO those interested in the old landmarks of Medford it is a matter of importance that, even if those landmarks have been destroyed or removed, some record of their original location should be preserved. It will be found by an examination of the recent maps of the city that this brook is represented as flowing through the location of the clay pits excavated by the Massachusetts Brick Company, and from thence through a new channel until it reaches Main street, where it joins the original location of the brook as it flowed through the culvert under Main street and from thence to the river. It has been previously mentioned in the HISTORICAL REGISTER (Vol. 16, No. 3) that the portion of the brook between Mystic avenue and the river has been straightened, widened and deepened so as to make it navigable. Without doubt the maps referred to are correct so far as the open brook or ditch is concerned, but the makers of those maps must have drawn upon their imagination when they drew the course of the brook through the clay pits. However, this article is not written for the purpose of criticising the maps, but to place upon record the true course of the brook so far as it may be ascertained at the present time. By an examination of Walling's map of Medford, it will be found that the brook is thereupon represented as flowing across Buzzell's lane as it runs in a curved course from the low land near the location of College avenue. The maker of this map failed to complete his work by tracing the course of the brook to the boundary line between Medford and Somerville. Fortunately there is a copy of another map that supplies the necessary link. This copy is referred to as it is easy of reference for the readers of the HISTORICAL REGISTER. It may be found in the article entitled "The Walnut-tree Hill Division of the Stinted Pasture," in Vol. 15, No. 2. Join the two plans and we have a fairly

accurate plan of the original location of the brook. Some years before the many clay pits had been excavated, and after the course of the brook had been changed, the writer of this article went over the land to endeavor to locate the old course of the brook and succeeded in locating a good part of the old channel, also in locating the channels through which flowed the waters from the spring under the old brick tower on the Stearns estate and the spring on the lot of land west of College avenue, formerly known as the Pansy park. There are culverts under College avenue to allow the flow of water from both of these springs. The change in the course of the brook was caused by the excavation of the clay pits. The course of the brook on the south side of the Southern division of the Boston and Maine railroad has also been changed, it formerly flowed a short distance southeast from its present location.

In the article entitled "The Withington Bakery" in the July number of the REGISTER (No. 3, 1915) may be found a reference to the approximate age of the old buildings demolished lately. The records show that in the year 1735 the land was conveyed without buildings, and in the year 1755 it was conveyed with a house and shop thereon. The writer of that part of Mr. Usher's history therein referred to overshot the mark by about one hundred years.

We have to record the passing of the old house on the corner of Main and Emerson streets. This house stood on a portion of the Stinted pasture, and the land was deeded by Jonathan Tufts to Job Richardson in the year 1731. The house was probably erected soon after, as it is mentioned in a deed a few years later. In 1743 it came into the possession of Isaac Royall, and was a part of his estate at the time of his decease. In 1827 it came into the possession of Jacob Butters, and his deed mentions a house and currier's shop. This house as it was

originally built consisted of one room in each story and a lean-to of one room. The old part of the house was next to Emerson street, and judging from the difference in construction, the newer part must have been added some years later. The house next south of the old house was probably the currier's shop mentioned in the Butters' deed, changed into a dwelling-house. It adjoined the older house, but was not connected therewith. We have also to record its passing. The large double house (now long vacant) next south of the above-mentioned houses, was a part of the old Blanchard tavern that stood on the west side of Main street near Cradock bridge, on land now part of the boulevard, and was moved to its present location and finished as a dwelling-house about seventy-eight years ago. It may be of interest to add that the homestead lot of Dr. Luther Stearns was just north of and adjoining the old house-lot above mentioned. The Stearns house was removed to a location on the east side of Main street. It stands next south of the house standing in the angle made by Main street and Mystic avenue. The Stearns lot comprised that portion of Emerson street adjoining Main street, and the corner (Whalen) lot adjoining.

IN MEDFORD SQUARE.

In excavating for the new block on the north side of the square the foundation of an ancient building was uncovered, situated directly in the rear of the brick building, lately demolished, that stood between the Seccomb and Weymouth buildings. Old residents of Medford will recognize this foundation as the site of a building that stood in the rear of and connected with the brick building above referred to, and which was demolished some years ago. These buildings were the home of the Joseph Patten Hall family for many years, and the older part has a history that is worth recording. In the year 1717 Stephen Willis, Jr., sold to Peter Seccomb this old house, and it was referred to in the deed as the said

Willis' dwelling. Without doubt it was built some years previous. Stephen Willis, Jr., was a housewright, and he owned all the land that fronted on what is now High and Salem streets from the Seccomb lot to the lot on which stands the church of the Mystic Congregational Society. His wife, Susanna, was a daughter of Major Jonathan Wade, whose house is now standing on Pasture hill (or Governors) lane in the rear of the Savings Bank building. The lot on which the old house stood was 23 feet in width on the road and 171 feet in depth. It was bounded on the north by Brickyard pasture, a portion of which is now the site of the High School house. This estate passed through several ownerships until, in the year 1783, it came into the possession of William Gowen, father of Maria Gowen Brooks ("Maria del Occidente") who had a high reputation as a poetess. She is supposed to have been born in this old house in the year 1794 (see HISTORICAL REGISTER, Vol. 2, page 150). In the year 1796 the estate came into the possession of Joseph Patten Hall above referred to. The brick building was subsequently erected, probably in the early part of the nineteenth century, and it is very likely that the old house was moved back from the street to make way for the new brick building. All the buildings on each side of this estate stood near to the street line, as was the custom in those early days. The correctness of the statements made in Vol. 18, No. 2, of the REGISTER in regard to the raising of the grade of the square have been verified by the several layers of filling brought to light by these excavations.

ANSWER TO QUERIES.

In Vol. 18, page 73, may be found three questions which evidently await an answer. Questions one and two I pass with the remark that in all probability these two subjects as portrayed in pageant are pure fiction. As to the third, I quote from the journal of Benjamin Crafts, "Sunday August 13th Two Regulars deserted

from Bunker's Hill, swam over to Malden and were carried to Royal's Gen Washington's headquarters."

NOTES BY THE WAY.

Vol. 18, page 81. Mr. Swan's quotation of Mr. Wells' statement concerning the building of the Samuel Swan house (now the Home of the Aged) may be correct, but the fact remains that a house stood on that location prior to the year 1689. It was the property of Major Jonathan Wade, who died in the year 1689. In the division of his estate it was set off to his daughter Katherine, who married Elizer Wyer—"To Katherine Wyer, she hath the house by Marble brook and about 18 acres adjoining, allowing 2 acres for highways." Elizer Wyer and wife Katherine sold, in 1710, house, barn, and sixteen acres of land lying on both sides of the road from Medford to Woburn. This house may have been built by a Mr. Richardson of Woburn; if so he was the builder, not the owner.

In the year 1675 Caleb Hubbart sold to John Hall and others five hundred acres of land, part of the Cradock farm. This land was bounded westerly on Thomas Brooks and Timothy Wheeler, easterly on Jonathan Wade, northerly on Charlestown woodlots, and southerly on Mystic river, together with all tenements in the possession of Thomas Shepard, Daniel Markham and Thomas Eames. Thomas Shepard's house was situated on the north side of High street, and the easterly line of Allston street runs through its site. Daniel Markham's house was situated back from Woburn street, and its site is now a part of Oak Grove cemetery. Thomas Eames' house was situated near the junction of Arlington and Canal streets. This five hundred acres of land was afterwards divided among the purchasers, and the Shepard house came into the possession of John Hall and Stephen Willis. There was not a house, at that date, between the Shepard house and Marble brook. When Brooks

and Wheeler purchased their estate (1660) they also acquired a right in the landing at the "Rocks," next to Thomas Marrable's (Marble's) house. The Rocks are now know as Rock hill, and Thomas Marrable's house must have stood on the east side of Marble brook, and may have been (and probably was) the identical house set off to Katherine Wyer from her father's estate.

April 26, 1641. Mr. Cradock grants to Josiah Dawstin of Mistick at Medford in New England all that my messuage or tenement late in the tenure of the said Dawstin, commonly called Dixes house, together with six acres of planting ground adjoining. Also seven acres of meadow commonly called by the name of Rock Meadow.

. . . The name of Rock meadow is naturally associated with Rock hill. All the early houses of which we have any record were on, or near, a traveled way. There is no other location shown that so nearly points to the neighborhood of Rock hill. It is possible that "Dixes" (or Dix's) house stood on the location above described.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

REVEREND HENRY C. DeLONG.

ON Monday morning, January 10, 1916, there passed away one of our members who had been interested in our work almost from its beginning, and whose contributions to our literature have been considerable and of much interest.

Henry C. DeLong (a clergyman's son) was born in Birmingham, New York, November 13, 1838, and educated for, and ordained to the Christian ministry in that state. He served several Universalist parishes during the five years preceding his acceptance of the call of Medford's First Parish.

He married, in 1864, Louise G. Williams (a clergyman's daughter), and came to Massachusetts, preaching at Haverhill and Danvers. His first sermon in the relation he here so long and happily sustained was on March 7, 1869, and he continued in active service for

forty-five years, and as pastor *emeritus* since his resignation. The large company that gathered at the simple and impressive burial service in First Parish Church on Wednesday, January 12, is a testimony to the worth of the loved minister, and a mark of the esteem in which he was held throughout our city.

A brother minister gives the following appreciation:—

AN APPRECIATION.

When at a recent gathering of the ministers of Medford I was addressed as the "Dean," I found myself almost shocked at the fact that by reason of being the longest in residence of the active pastors of the city I was entitled to that honorable name and office. But for many years the subject of this sketch bore the name and filled the office with dignity and grace, and I can only suppose that it is because of the fact of my extended service that I have been asked to write an appreciation of the man who for nearly half a century ministered in this community. Yet I have felt honored by the invitation, and only too glad to write something as to my own feeling about him and the place which I think he filled among us. And may I be pardoned for first giving my personal appreciation, for he was both my friend and colleague for the now nearly twelve years of my residence in Medford. I well recall the very cordial and friendly way in which, after he had, I think, gotten assurance of my good will for a Unitarian minister (which he had not always experienced) he welcomed me to the religious life of the city and to his own esteem. This latter I was most glad to return.

Shortly after my settlement as the pastor of the Mystic Church, I took the opportunity of arranging an exchange of pulpits with Mr. DeLong, as I did also with the then minister of the Universalist Church, Rev. Clarence L. Eaton. This was the first time in the long history of these three churches that their respective ministers had thus exchanged. It was also the first time that Mr. De-

Long had ever preached, at a regular service at least, in the Mystic Church, though for over thirty years then he had been a citizen and neighbor, and a worthy minister of the Christian religion. I recall how pleased he was about it, and more particularly how happy over the cordial welcome given him by his neighbors and friends and the officials of the orthodox Congregational Church. Had he been any other than a gentleman and Christian he might justly have shown a little wicked gleam of triumph in the matter! But nothing of the kind was manifest, only the quiet remark, "Things have changed, and we are all glad."

Mr. DeLong was a man of different theological inheritance and training from myself, but his appeal to me at the first was quick, as that of one of scholarly tastes and the love of letters. For although I have never become the scholar I set out to be, in the midst of the practical industry of a modern minister I have always kept, or wanted to keep, the scholar's attitude, which was what Mr. DeLong had done through all the long years of his ministry. And as I came to know him better I knew how the departure from it on the part of many fellow ministers troubled him. He also had little sympathy with the modern hustling enterprise and "doings" which seem to be in demand for the church of today. He regarded himself as a religious teacher and guide rather than the manager of a theological plant, built and carried on according to modern "efficiency." And in this we had much in common, though I was the greatly younger man and trained in the new age.

Another thing appealed to me and that was his spiritual quality. I had not thought of Unitarianism as developing the especially spiritual life, although always strong in its intellectual and ethical aspects, even though I knew the spiritual qualities of the great New England poets and philosophers who were largely of this faith. But here at least was a man, a Unitarian minister, of a distinctively spiritual, even also evangelical Christian

temper, in the broad sense of the word evangelical. Some years ago, at the time of the Chapman revival meetings in Boston, I was very desirous that special union gospel meetings of all the Protestant churches of Medford might be held in this city. To do this, the basis of union would have to be simple and broad, and I thought that if we could just preach the gospel of discipleship to Jesus as the essential call of Christianity, leaving out the various merely theological notations, we could all get together with one accord in one place. And it seemed to me that the whole community must hear and heed this kind of an appeal. I voiced this thought of mine in the local papers, and I knew that Mr. DeLong was greatly interested in it and would have co-operated, as would have the Rev. Mr. Eaton of the Universalist Church. But alas it was not to be, and our evangelistic services, when they came, were of the old divisive kind. But I speak of this merely to show Mr. DeLong's broad Christian sympathy and his really evangelical feeling.

Closely akin to this spiritual quality of his life was his reverence for God and man. He approached Deity always in the spirit of vast awe, and was also respectful of the soul of a fellow-man. You could never think of him as trying to ram the gospel down the throat of a man, as I have often seen it done by ministers and others. I well recall his introductory address to God in prayer. How unusually filled with awe were his words! He would not even lead in public prayer on an instant's notice, as so many ministers are obliged to do, and which so often develops the easy pious phrases and formal, almost superficial speech. Mr. DeLong wanted to know beforehand, to be prepared in mood and word, as indeed every minister has the right to do, before addressing the Deity in public prayer. But in his case it was entirely in keeping with his reverent mind and sincere temper, without possible pretense or cant.

But I must pass from this more personal appreciation of my friend and colleague to speak of what I think he

was to the community. As a church minister Mr. DeLong's term of office was comparable to that of two of the three ministers who served the old town of Medford from 1713 to 1822, when there was but the one colonial church. For Ebenezer Turell was pastor for fifty years and David Osgood for forty-eight years, with Mr. DeLong forty-five years. So also he inherited the traditions of a general ministry, which for over a century made his church the one religious center, with the whole community as its parish and with all the tax payers contributing to its support. And Mr. DeLong was earnest and intelligent in his community interest. First as a minister of religion, bringing the consolations of Christian faith to many people irrespective of any church connections, and second as a citizen, serving the public for many years on the Public Library Board and in other ways.

While not active in the political life of the city, as usually becomes the wisdom of a minister, yet he was always influencing that life by the preaching and the support of high political principles. As a descendant of French Huguenot stock, he inherited its independence. Sometimes this independence led him to a definiteness of mind and attitude that could be called stubborn. But one could but believe he tried "to see clear and think straight," to use his own descriptive words about the Puritans, in an address given at the two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of Medford. He was bound to no rigid creed either of religion or politics. Nor did his age make him inflexible as to methods. During these later years, when younger and more physically vigorous men came into the pastorates of the various churches, he was yet interested with them in any proposed ways of bettering the community life. And he kept alive to this contemporary life up to the very last. It was characteristic of him that age did not relegate him to the past. Indeed, he seldom dwelt upon the past, his interest was in current events. And when men saw him at the polling place or in the civic meeting, they knew

he was there as a citizen, not of fifty years back, but of the very day; not a resident of old Medford, but a dweller in the present city.

As to his work as the pastor of a given Christian church, others are more competent to speak than am I. But full testimony was given as to the quality of that ministry at the time of his resignation. It was essentially a ministry of the faithful and quiet and gentlemanly sort, unobtrusive and unsensational. I doubt not some felt it lacked certain aggressive qualities which make an institution "go" with a swing. There is this ever incessant demand for a pusher in the ecclesiastical as in the business world. But here was a man who, as has been already said, kept to certain old ideals of the Christian ministry, being born and bred in the days before *push* became the keyword of all human enterprise, when men of the prophetic word took time to think and brood. And some of us are glad of it! For Mr. DeLong was made thereby a dignified and serious teacher of religion, a prophet of the Word of God, an interpreter of human faith, which after all is more needed than a first-class religious hustler.

It was rather characteristic of the man, moreover, that only a few hours before his death, when he felt a little brighter, he called for his glasses and the *Atlantic Monthly*. Here was the man of letters, the understanding and appreciative reader of the best in literature. And this was aways evidenced by the literary quality of his sermons and their solid output. Mr. DeLong was not what is called in these days a "popular preacher," and could not be. That kind of a preacher is made of different stuff, and sometimes behold what stuff! Our friend's sermons were products of mental industry, and required mental industry by the hearer in return, a thing, after all, greatly to be desired now, when the preacher's task seems to be to serve up his provender after the manner of the quick-lunch counter, and even predigested.

So in these different ways, as minister of religion, as

honorable citizen, and man of letters, this man's life and public influence for fifty years in a single community is noteworthy, and deserves the full meed of praise. And as for the more personal facts of friendship and kinship, and the precious ties embraced therein, there are many hearts that will cherish him in the silent chambers of love and grateful memory.

GEORGE M. BUTLER.

MEDFORD COMMERCE.

The business transactions and investments of Benjamin Hall, Sr., Medford's chief merchant and trader of colonial and revolutionary times, were many and varied. The following list of ships and their captains, and the ports to which they sailed, as found in Mr. Hall's account with Edward Payson for insurance on craft and cargo, shows how large his marine ventures were; —

Defiance	Parsons	to and from West Indies
Essex	Willcome	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Friendship	Jackson	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Halifax	Stiles	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
Polly	Barstow	,, ,, ,, Holland
Dauphin	Smith	for France
Three Friends	Wood	,, ,,
Neptune	Frazier	,, West Indies
John	Stanton	,, ,, ,,
Sally	Paine	,, ,, ,,
Friendship	Manchester	,, ,, ,,
Bella	Grinnell	,, Holland

Other sloops were *Gloriosa*, *Mercury*, *Boston*, *Speedwell*, *Minerva*. What a scene of activity the coming and going of these vessels must have given to Mystic river!

— E. M. G

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APRIL, 1916

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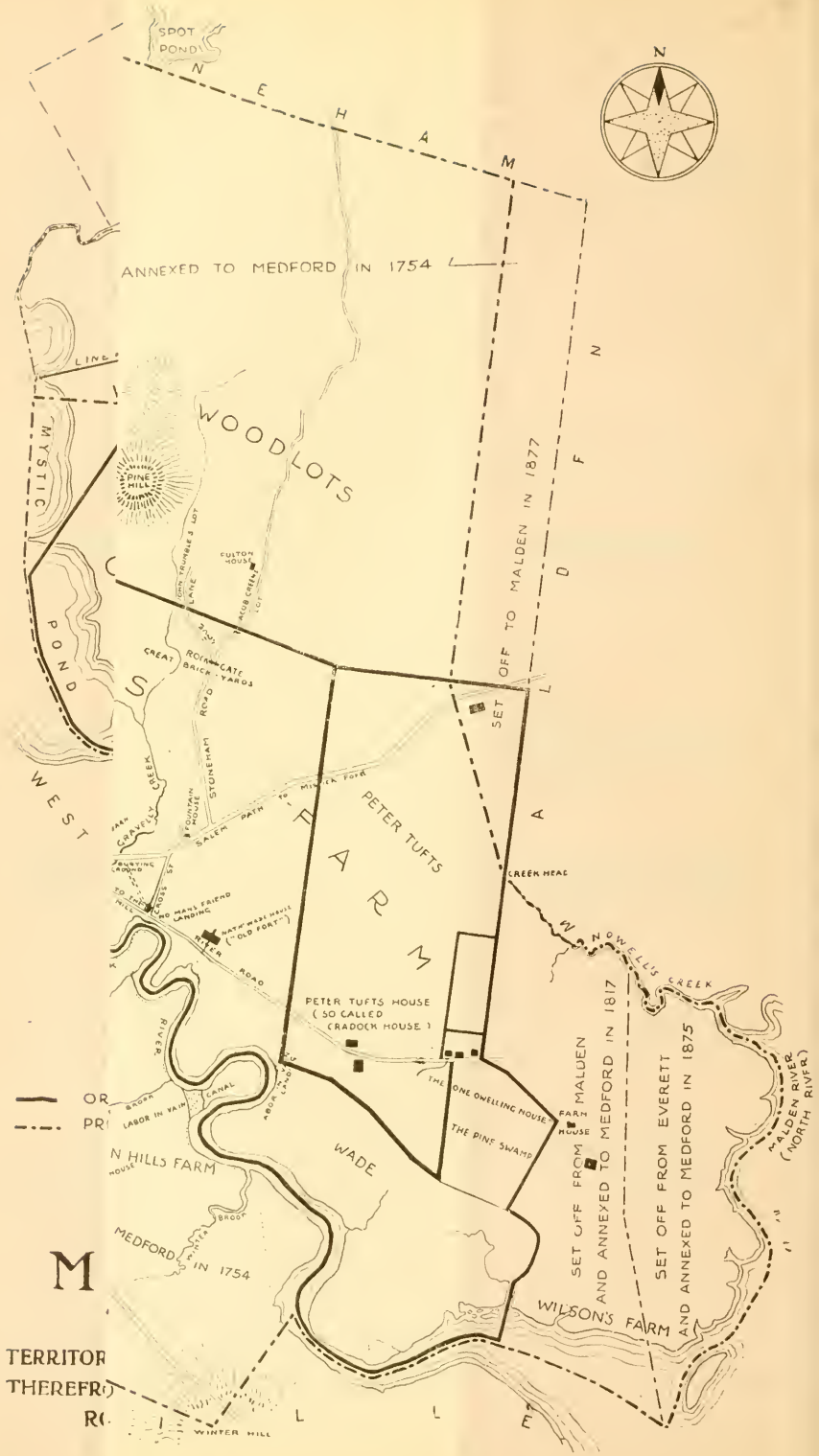
FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.


SPOT POND
N E H A M
N
ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1754
LINE
WOODLOTS
MYSTIC
POND
PINE HILL
CULTON HOUSE
SET OFF TO MALDEN IN 1877
GREAT ROAD
CATT BRICK YARDS
STONEHAM ROAD
GRAVEL
CREEK
FOUNTAIN HOUSE
SALEM PATH
PETER TUFTS FARM
CREEK HEAD
WEST
WOODS
ROAD
MAN'S FRIEND LANDING
NATIVE WEST INDIAN ("OLD FORT")
RIVER
PETER TUFTS HOUSE (SO CALLED CRADOCK HOUSE)
THE ONE DWELLING HOUSE
THE PINE SWAMP
FARM HOUSE
WADE
CANAL
BROOK
LABOR IN VAIN
N HILLS FARM
MEDFORD IN 1754
WILSON'S FARM
SET OFF FROM MALDEN AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1817
SET OFF FROM EVERETT AND ANNEXED TO MEDFORD IN 1875
MALDEN RIVER (NORTH RIVER)
WINTER HILL
M
TERRITOR
THEREFR
R

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XIX. APRIL, 1916. No. 2.

SOME ERRORS IN MEDFORD'S HISTORIES.

I HAVE thought it proper to call the attention of the members of the Medford Historical Society, and through them the public, to the numerous errors concerning the early history of Medford that may be found in Mr. Charles Brooks' history, with which most of our members are familiar. I have, in this paper, made brief quotations from that history, and have endeavored to show wherein they are erroneous. I have been careful in pointing out these errors to correct only such as can be readily proved to be erroneous, and where this cannot be readily proved, to give such reasons for my disagreement as will appeal to my readers as good *arguments*, even if they fail to convince. I have taken great interest in the early history of Medford; my forebears, like those of Mr. Brooks, were among the early landholders of the plantation. It is on account of this interest that I presume to criticise Mr. Brooks' history, and for the same reason I also include the history of Mr. Usher, which is mainly a copy of that of Mr. Brooks. I have not attempted to point out *all* the errors of these historians; to do this would require a rewriting of much of both histories. In order to correctly understand this article one should have in hand Mr. Brooks' history for reference. These quotations are necessarily brief.

On page 1 may be found the following statement: —

> This author (Josselyn) gives the name of Mistick to land on the north side of the river and reports a thriving population as then gathered between the two brick houses, called forts.

Josselyn is here *mis*-quoted. He does not speak of brick houses, nor were there any at that date (1638).

Fold-out Placeholder

This fold-out is being digitized, and will be inserted at a future date.

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Josselyn is here *mis*-quoted. He does not speak of brick houses, nor were there any at that date (1638).

It was afterwards the intention of some to unite Mr. Cradock's, Mr. Winthrop's, Mr. Wilson's and Mr. Nowell's lands in one township and call it Mystic. [Page 2.]

There is no evidence of this.

Medford's bounds would have run to Malden river had not these four hundred acres intervened.

The land granted to Mr. Wilson did not include the marsh at the junction of Mystic and Malden rivers. The town of Charlestown owned the marshes and called the place Wilson's point.

The line ran north of Symmes' corner, and struck Symmes' river.

It was not until the year 1754 that the line ran as above stated. [See Vol. 2, page 53, of the HISTORICAL REGISTER.]

Mr. Tynge, Mr. Samuel Sheephard and Goodman Edward Converse, are to set out the bounds between Charlestown and Mr. Cradocks farm on the north side of Mistick river (Stoneham and Malden). [P. 3.]

Medford line did not touch Stoneham at that time. The Charlestown wood-lots lay between the two locations. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 53.]

Mistick fields. — The name of the land on the south side of Mystic river from Winter Hill to Medford Pond.

Mistick fields were on the north side of Mistick river (Malden and Everett). The land between Main street, Medford, and Menotomy river was called the Stinted pasture. And between Menotomy river and Medford pond was called the Line field. Creek Head creek was called Nowell's creek.

This river is felt to belong to Medford; for we may almost say that it has its beginning, continuance and end within the limits of our town. [P. 6.]

This may be considered quite a broad claim, as not much more than one-half its length is within Medford bounds, and its source is divided between Medford and Arlington. Its course from the pond to a point below the Boston and Lowell railroad bridge on the south side is divided between the town of Arlington and the city of Somerville.

The Ford in the center of Medford continued in use . . . till 1639 and was about ten rods above the bridge. [P. 7.]

The landing place of the ford on the north side of the river was through the Armory grounds. [REGISTER, Vol. 4, p. 1.]

There was until recently but one island in the river and that is near the shore in Malden.

There *was* also an island a few rods below Wier Bridge.

In 1761 — the inhabitants of Medford proposed to cut a canal across this peninsula (Labor in Vain) . . . the plan failed.

The canal *was* cut in 1761. [REGISTER, Vol. 3, p. 71.]

In the Wade family there is a tradition that their ancestor, Major Jonathan Wade gave to the town, about the year 1680, the landing place now occupied by Mr. J. T. Foster. [P. 8.]

This is merely tradition, there is no record of any such transaction, and further, the major never owned the land.

Brooks. [P. 9.]

Whitmore brook has its source in Bare hill meadow; Marble brook in Turkey swamp; Winter brook in the region south of Winter hill; Two Penny brook (which Mr. Brooks does not mention) has its source south and west of Walnut Tree hill (now College hill); Gravelly creek has its source in the region south of Spot pond.

Medford Records, . . . its first twenty-five or thirty pages are gone. [P. 27.]

The first book of records is complete. [REGISTER, Vol. 9, p. 20.] Also see History of Medford in the proceedings of the two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the settlement of Medford. [P. 14.]

This party from Salem, passing through Medford, were the first European feet that pressed the soil we now tread.

"We went up the Mystick river about six miles," . . . and the English eyes in that boat were the first eyes of settlers that looked upon these fields on which we now live. [P. 32.]

On the preceding page (31) is an account of a journey from Salem to Charlestown in the summer of 1628–9, from which I quote: —

. . . and the land lying on the east side of the river, called Mystick River, from the farm Mr. Cradock's servants had planted called Mystick, which this river led up unto ; . . .

Were the settlers who planted the farm in 1629 without feet, and were they blind?

He (Gov. Winthrop) called his place . . . The Ten Hills Farm . . . . This favorite selection of the chief magistrate would naturally turn his thoughts to his fast friend Mathew Cradock and lead him to induce Mr. Cradock's men to settle in the neighborhood.

As has been shown, Mr. Cradock's men had planted a farm at Medford in 1629, over a year before Governor Winthrop came to New England. The occupation of the land and the planting of a farm is usually considered as a settlement, and therefore Medford was settled in 1629. There were good *reasons* why Medford was settled at that early date. The title to the land was in dispute. Governor Cradock suggested that the claim of John Oldham (who claimed under Robert Gorges) might be prevented by causing some to take possession of the chief part thereof. There is reason to believe that the farm at Mystick was planted in order to carry out the above suggestion. There is also reason to believe that those whom Governor Dudley speaks of as settlers upon Mystick, "which we named Meadford," were in the employ of Governor Cradock. The General Court never granted any land in Medford to any one except Governor Cradock, and no other person had any rights in the soil, and this shows that all the settlers of Medford must have been bound to serve Mr. Cradock previous to leaving England. All settlers who were *not* so bound would naturally settle in places where they could obtain rights in the soil which could not be so obtained in Medford at that time. Quite a number of our early settlers came to New England, bound to persons who advanced the necessary passage money, and were under contract to serve their masters a specified time, to reimburse them for their outlay.

The Governor had the care of Mr. Cradock's men . . . [P. 33.]

Mr. Cradock's business was in charge of agents both before and after Governor Winthrop came to New England. [REGISTER, Vol. 9, No. 1.]

The 28th of September, 1630, Medford was taxed £3. for the support of military teachers. Nov. 30, 1630, another tax of £3. was levied. [P. 33.]

These taxes were levied upon Meadford plantation and were paid by Mr. Cradock or his agents, not by the town, as Mr. Brooks would imply, there being no town government at that time.

. . . but not a word of complaint reaches us from the first planters of Medford and no one to our knowledge, left the plantation. [P. 35.]

As has been shown, the first settlers of Medford were the servants of Mr. Cradock, and when his enterprises failed and (after his death), the plantation was sold to different parties, these servants of Mr. Cradock no doubt left for parts unknown, and the true settlers, the "fathers of Medford," came into the possession of the land.

In Medford were built three of these strong brick citadels . . . [P. 35.]

It has been already asserted that these houses were *not* built at that early date. [REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 49.]

It is ordered that no person shall plant [settle] in any place within the limits of this patent, without leave from the Governor and Assistants, or the major part of them. [P. 35.]

This extract confirms my previous statement that the first settlers of Medford had no rights in the soil. Mr. Cradock was the only person to receive a grant of early Medford soil.

The following owned lands in Medford before 1680. [P. 37.]

This list is not correct.

It is ordered . . . [P. 37.]

This was an order for the survey of lands, etc., and did not apply to Medford.

As soon as Gov. Winthrop had settled himself on the Ten-Hill Farm, in 1630, he recommended Gov. Cradock's men to plant

themselves directly opposite him on the north side of the river . . . [P. 39.]

The location above described was the land granted to the Rev. Mr. Wilson, April 1, 1634, and there is not the slightest evidence that Mr. Cradock's men built the house referred to, or that there was any house on the land until after the date of Mr. Wilson's grant. Mr. Cradock's men were then located in what is now Medford square, where the travelers from Salem found them in the summer of 1629.

May 25, 1661.— Richard Russell who had occupied the "Mansion House" five years, sold it, with twelve hundred acres of his land, to Jonathan Wade who lived near the bridge on the south side of the river. [P. 41.]

The Jonathan Wade who bought land of Mr. Russell was of Ipswich, and father of Jonathan and Nathaniel Wade of Medford. Neither of the Wades owned land on the *south* side of the river or lived there.

This tract is now the most thickly settled part of Medford. [P. 42.]

This should read the most sparsely settled part of Medford.

Oct. 20, 1656: James Garrett . . . sells for £5. to Edward Collins, forty acres of land . . . butting on Mistick Pond on the west. March 13, 1657: Samuel Adams sold to Ed. Collins 40 acres of land . . . bounded on the south by Meadford Farm . . . Paid £10. [P. 42.]

Neither of these grantors lived in Medford, and the lots were part of the Charlestown wood-lots, and were included in the land sold to Messrs. Brooks and Wheeler in the year 1660.

Collins to Michelson. [P. 42.]

This lot was not in Medford.

March 13, 1675. Caleb Hobart sells to Ed. Collins . . . [P. 42.]

This was a mortgage.

Mr. Nicholas Davison . . . who lived near Mr. Wade . . . [P. 42.]

Mr. Davison left Medford years before Mr. Wade came here.

1658 In answer to the petition of the inhabitants of Mistick . . . [P. 43.]

The location of the Mistick referred to was the present location of the city of Everett.

Mr. Wade . . . came over in 1632. [P. 43.]

This Mr. Wade settled in Ipswich and was the father of Jonathan and Nathaniel Wade of Medford.

The first bounds of lots cannot now be traced. [P. 43.]

See REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 49, for map showing division of lots.

The Squa Sachem, residing in Medford, Aug. 1, 1637, gives lands to Jotham Gibbon . . . [P. 43.]

The Squa Sachem lived on the west side of Mystic ponds, and the land given to Jotham Gibbon was on the same side. This deed included the Mystic ponds. Mr. Cradock's boundary was the eastern shore of the *lower* pond.

Jonathan Wade . . . bought land on the south side of the river. [P. 43.]

As has before been stated, Jonathan Wade did not own land on the *south* side of river.

Governor Cradock's House. [P. 46.]

Much has been said in regard to this ancient house, and many persons still labor under the delusion that this house was built by Governor Cradock's agent in 1634, as asserted by Mr. Brooks. Governor Cradock's grant was made March 4, 1634–5. According to the present style of computing time this grant was made in 1635, one year later than the date given by Mr. Brooks. The so-called port-holes must have been ornaments, for they are placed so high in the wall that it would be necessary for the gunner to stand upon a table in order to shoot through the opening, and even then he could not see his enemy unless he was at some distance from the house. Mr. Brooks says, on page 47, that

Outside shutters were in common use in England at the time above mentioned; and so it was common to ornament houses with round or oval openings on each side of the front.

Now let us consider the arguments for and against the identity of this house as being the work of Governor Cradock's agents. First, we have Mr. Brooks' arguments as given in his history. And the only other is that obtained from a letter written by Mr. Cradock, dated March 15, 1636–7, in which he says, "I think I shall be forced to be a suitor for some land at Shawsheen, the best of mine, as I am informed, near my house, being allotted to Mr. Wilson and Mr. Nowell . . ." The only knowledge Mr. Cradock could have obtained as to the location of his land must have come from the crude maps of that period, and he, being three thousand miles distant, might well say that land in a sparsely settled country like that on the banks of the Mistick, was near his house, when it was only about a mile and one-half distant therefrom.

On the other hand, let us examine the several deeds conveying Meadford plantation after it passed out of the possession of Mr. Cradock's heirs. In Middlesex South District Deeds, Book 2, page 325, may be found a deed from Edward Collins of Medford, to Richard Russell of Charlestown, "1600 acres of land part of Meadford Plantation with Mansion house and other buildings. Bounded easterly on Nowell's farm (and) Blanchard's farm. . . . Southerly with Mistick river. Northerly with Charlestown line, on the west with an oak tree marked R. C.* standing on the west side of a brook that runs into that part of the Marshland which lyeth on the west side of said Mansion house, . . . and the brook† into which the said brook runs, is the westerly bounds of the said marsh, . . . Excepting from the above, 12 acres of the meadows lying by Mistick river next unto the land of the said Edward Collins."

These twelve acres of marsh land above described are bounded by Marble brook (it being the brook mentioned above) on the west, Mystic river on the south, north on

* Evidently meaning Russell and Collins.

† Brook here means the creek, or lower reach of the stream which is affected by the tides.

the upland between High street and said marshland. It included that point of marshland that was cut off, when a new channel of the river was made by Messrs. Curtis and Stetson, shipbuilders, as a passageway for their ships. This point of marshland or island has been removed by recent improvements made in the river. The easterly part of these twelve acres is the land in the rear of the Armory building. This deed shows that the Mansion house therein spoken of could *not* have been the so-called Cradock house.

In Book 3, page 397, of the abovesaid records, Richard Russell of Charlestown sells to Jonathan Wade of Ipswich "¾ part of the land purchased of Edward Collins, with all buildings." Mr. Russell reserved the other one-quarter part adjoining Blanchard's farm, viz.: one-quarter part of the meadow and one-quarter part of all other lands, "which were of that part that is *furthest from the dwelling house*," and "adjoining that farm which was Mr. Nowell's, and to Blanchard's as above." Here we have the Mansion house described in the deed of Collins to Russell called a *dwelling house* by Russell to Wade. *They are identical.*

Next in Book 8, page 35, of the records aforesaid, we have a deed from "Richard Russell, Executor of the will of his father Richard Russell, Senior, to Peter Tufts of Charlestown, of 350 acres of land more or less, part of Meadford plantation . . . being ¼ part of that farm which Mr. Collins sold to said Russell, and hath thereon one dwelling house and barn. . . ." Bounded northerly with Charlestown line, southerly with Mistick river, westerly with Mr. Wade's land, easterly on land of the said Peter Tufts (this land of Tufts was the Nowell farm). The date of this deed was April 20, 1677.

Again in Book 8, page 36, of the records before mentioned, Peter Tufts, Senior, of Charlestown, sells to Peter Tufts, Junior, of Meadford (commonly called Captain Peter), "½ part of the farm bought of Richard Russell bounded westerly by Mr. Nathaniel Wade's land, easterly

by Peter Tufts senior, southerly by Nathaniel Wade's meadow, northerly by Peter Tufts senior, . . . with all the Housings thereupon." This is the land upon which stands the brick house, misnamed the Cradock house. The deed is dated November 26, 1680. That this sale did *not* include the one dwelling-house and barn mentioned in the deed from Executor Russell to Tufts, will be shown by quoting from the will of Peter Tufts, Senior: "I give to my son Peter, 20 acres of upland lying next his house, and the dwelling house standing thereon; he paying his brother John for the barn standing upon said land." This dwelling-house is the same house mentioned in the deed from Richard Russell, executor, to Peter Tufts, Senior.

To trace this *old* house still further, reference may be had to a deed, dated April 1, 1728. Peter Tufts, Junior, sold to Edward Oakes four acres and thirteen poles of land, "with an *old house* upon it." *This* was the same house, and a portion of the twenty acres *bequeathed*, not sold, to Capt. Peter Tufts by his father, Peter Tufts, Senior. To conclude the history of *this* "old house," reference may be had to an inventory of the estate of Edward Oakes of Medford. The old house was mentioned as a part of his estate, and in the division of the estate it was set off to his son Edward with twelve and one-half acres of land. [REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 49.]

The other old brick house, built about the same time, . . . (*i.e.*, 1634.) [P. 48.]

This house was built by Nathaniel Wade, brother to Jonathan. It stood about fifty feet each way from Park street and Riverside avenue. It was probably built about the time that his brother Jonathan's was.

The third house was built by Major Jonathan Wade who died in 1689. . . . When first built it was only half its present size. [P. 48.]

By reference to the division of Major Wade's estate in Volume 4, page 48, of the REGISTER, it will be seen that one-half of the present house could hardly contain

the number of rooms therein spoken of. This house was built between 1683 and 1689.

> Built by his father, after the model of an English nobleman's house in Antigua . . . [P. 50.]

For a description of the Royall house see REGISTER, Vol. 3, p. 133.

> To have free access to the river, the great highway, they opened private roads for the use of owners of lands, and what were called "rangeways" for the free use of the public. . . . [P. 51.]

All the roads to the river were laid out by private parties for their own use, and for such other persons as might be granted the right to use them. There is not a landing place on the north side of the river in which the public has, or ever had, any rights, except it may have been the landing at the ford, while the ford was in use. This situation is owing to the fact that all of early Medford territory was under one ownership; and also to the neglect of the officials to lay out these ways for the benefit of the public when the time arrived that they could legally do so. Some years ago the town of Medford claimed rights in the way and landing at Rock hill. A suit was brought to test the ownership thereof. The case was decided in favor of the owner of the land through which the way passed, upon the general ground that the public right (if it ever existed) had been lost by long-continued disuse. There were *no* rangeways in Medford while it retained its *original* area. Cross and Fulton streets, as far as the "Rock gate" (and from thence two ways to the wood-lots), were laid out by the *town of Charlestown*, by an agreement with Mr. Nathaniel Wade, the owner of the land through which these ways passed. This agreement was made May 13, 1698. Pasture hill and Ram Head lanes were laid out by the proprietors of the land through which they passed. Whatever rights the public had (if any) therein, were acquired by long-continued use. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 53.] There were rangeways on the south side of the river laid out by the town of Charlestown while that town owned the land

bordering on the river. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 53, and Vol. 15, p. 46.] The first roads laid out in Medford were Main street, then called the Charlestown road; Salem street, called Salem path to Mistick ford, also the road to Malden; Woburn road, from Medford square to Woburn. A portion of this road (from the square to Brooks' corner) is now High street, and High street continues to Arlington line over what was called the way to the Wears. There is another way to be mentioned in connection with these roads, although, like the greater part of Main street, it was originally in the town of Charlestown — South street. It was first called the way to the ford, still later, Fish-house lane. It is impossible to tell to which of these roads should be given the claim of priority.

In 1715 . . . they fixed the width of the road at the bridge at two rods and twelve feet. . . . [P. 52.]

The width of the bridge was then fourteen feet, and eight feet was added from each post at the foot of the bridge, making the width of the road at the bridge thirty feet. The width, at the corner of High and Main streets, was fixed at four rods; and at the southwest corner of the present Mystic church lot the width was fixed at two rods and twelve feet. This line cut off ten feet from the north corner of the great barn. [REGISTER, Vol. 7, p. 41.]

March 9, 1761. Many inhabitants of the town petitioned the Court of Sessions for a *road* across the marshes at Labor in Vain . . . [P. 54.]

This was not for a road, but for the cutting of a canal across Labor in Vain point, in order to straighten the river. [REGISTER, Vol. 4, P. 71.]

Mr. Cradock's Agent (Davison) commenced the building of a bridge over the river in 1638. [P. 59.]

This bridge is shown upon a *map* made in the year *1637;* it was finished by order of the General Court in 1639; it was, no doubt, in use in 1638. The bridge was one hundred and fifty-four feet and five inches long and

about ten feet wide at that time. The town of Charlestown brought a suit against Mr. Davison for stopping up Mistick river with a bridge, to the hinderance of boats, and for taxing cattle that go over the bridge. July 17, 1688, the board of selectmen of the town of Charlestown and commissioners from the towns of Medford, Malden, Woburn and Reading met to consider measures for a division of Mistick bridge among the several towns required by law to mend and maintain it. These commissioners agreed that Medford, Malden, Woburn and Reading should pay to the town of Charlestown, five pounds in "good pay," viz.: in corn or the like, for the present amending of the southerly half of Mistick bridge, and that in the future and for all time to come, the said southerly half of said bridge (being seventy-seven feet two and one-half inches in length), should be mended and maintained by the said town of Charlestown, and the northerly half thereof (being of like length) should be mended and maintained by the other towns above named. These four towns, charged with the care of the northerly half of the bridge, made a division of the same so that each town had a specified share to care for. The record of this division is lost, but it appears from other documents that Medford's share was next to the open arch. From the records of Malden we learn that, November 29, 1689, Malden worked at Mistick bridge, with cart and four oxen, and three hands to gravel the bridge. [REGISTER, Vol. 2, p. 1.]

The renowned Sachem of the Pawtuckets, Nanepashemit . . . [P. 72.]

Mr. Brooks places the residence of the sachem on Rock hill. Of this there is no evidence. He also quotes from Winslow (see page 73 of the history), but he omits a very important part of the narrative. Winslow says, "We discovered Mistick river but did not explore it." Some historians locate the places described as being in Medford. It would have been impossible for these explorers to stand on Rock hill and ignore the presence of

the Mistick river, which would have been spread out before them, both east and west.

He may have first stopped opposite Winthrop's farm, at Ten Hills, and there done something in the fishing business. . . . [P. 88.]

This extract conveys a wrong impression, inasmuch as Mr. Brooks was well aware that Mr. Cradock never came to New England.

And who, in a letter of April 17, 1629, speaks of the settlement of families here in these terms. . . . [P. 89.]

Here is an admittance by Mr. Brooks that Medford was settled in 1629.

After his death, a part of his farm in Medford was sold to Mr. Ed. Collins. . . . [P. 93.]

Mr. Collins bought the whole farm.

For the ordering of Prudentials, . . . [P. 100.]

(Oct. 13, 1684.) It was agreed upon at a general meeting of the inhabitants, by a vote, to petition to the General Court, to grant us power and privilege as other Towns for the ordering of prudentials amongst us. [Medford Records.]

The court declared "that Meadford hath been, and is, a *peculiar*, and have power as other towns as to prudentials." Mr. Brooks misquotes the answer of the General Court. This declaration of the General Court did not imply that Medford had *all* the rights that were enjoyed by the other towns of the colony. The order of the General Court, passed June 2, 1641, "That all farms that are within the bounds of any town, shall be of the town in which they lie, except Meadford," fixed the status of Meadford plantation; it was a farm or plantation, and not a town, at that date.

Medford a Town. [P. 119.]

Mr. Frothingham, author of the History of Charlestown, says "that Medford was not a town." Mr. Brooks good-naturedly dissents from this statement, and shows cause. Let us, in turn, dissent from Mr. Brooks' statements, and show cause.

From 1629, the date of the settlement of Medford, to

1656, the plantation was under one ownership. All taxes levied, or fines imposed upon the plantation, or upon any of the servants therein employed, were paid by the owners thereof. There was nothing in any way resembling a town government. As has been before stated, the General Court, in 1641, called Meadford a *farm*, and a farm or plantation it continued to be, until the time when it was divided and sold to different parties. That a change took place in the status of the farm or plantation soon after Mr. Collins sold one thousand two hundred acres of his land to Mr. Russell, is shown by the orders of the County Court, which were issued for the first time to Meadford. June 25, 1658. "Meadford is enjoined to repair their Highways before the next term of Court. on penalty of forty shillings." Also, "the 8th of the 10th month 1664, the inhabitants of Meadford were summoned into Court, to answer to complaints about Mistick Bridge. Golden Moore returned that the bridge is repaired." The question then arose, "What proportion of the taxes levied, and fines imposed upon the plantation or farm, should be paid by each individual owner?" For the settlement of these questions it became necessary that the several owners should meet together to consult in regard to their common interests, and thus the nucleus of a town government was formed, a peculiar, as the General Court termed it.* There was no authority for calling these meetings, and the business pertaining to their common interests were, no doubt, transacted by committees. No record was kept of their proceedings. This condition of affairs continued until the increased liabilities of the plantation demanded that an organization resembling a town government should be formed, and persons chosen to take charge of their prudential affairs. The first recorded meeting of the inhabitants of the Meadford plantation was held the first Monday in February, 1674, and Mr. Nathaniel Wade was chosen

* "The word peculiar, in Colonial and Provincial Massachusetts, meant a parish, precinct or district not yet erected into a town, . . . [REGISTER, Vol. 9, p. 25.]

constable for the year ensuing. In 1676 they chose their first board of selectmen, in 1679 the first highway surveyor, in 1680 the first tithing-man and the first sealer of measures, in 1681–2 the first fence viewers, in 1689 the first representative to the General Court, and in 1693 their first orders and by-laws were approved by the court.

Reference has been made to the action of the inhabitants of the plantation in voting to petition the General Court to grant power and privileges as other towns for the ordering of prudentials. This action of the said inhabitants proves beyond question that they were aware that they were not organized as were the other towns of the colony. They knew the measures that had been taken to advance the interests of the plantation, and they felt that the time had arrived when they should be granted the same rights and privileges as the other towns of the colony. It is to be noted that up to this time they called their organization a *plantation*. They evidently knew what their political status was much better than the historians of the present day. A study of the records of the General Court will reveal the standing of Meadford plantation at the period under consideration. From 1630 to 1638 (both inclusive) Meadford plantation was taxed in the same proportion as were the other plantations of the colony. May 13, 1640, a tax of one thousand two hundred pounds was levied on every town. Meadford is *not* named. Also at the same date a committee of the court was chosen to value the live stock in every town; no mention of Meadford is made. December 10, 1641, an order was passed concerning the authorization of constables to serve warrants; in the list of towns Meadford is *not* mentioned. At the same date an order was passed that in every town "one shall be appointed to grant summons and attachments in all civil actions." Nineteen copies of the laws, liberties and the forms of oaths were transcribed "for the use of the persons who may be appointed; said persons to be called clerks of the writs." Nineteen towns are named; Meadford *not* men-

tioned. May 29, 1644, an order was passed by the General Court "that henceforth these towns (according to the entry) as also all other towns that already are or hereafter shall be erected within this jurisdiction shall (according to their antiquity) take their places of precedency, both in the transacting of the affairs of this house, as also in all such other occasions, as may fall out within this Colony respecting such precedency of place." Twenty-four towns are named; Meadford is *not* in the list.*

> When Deputy Governor Dudley, and those with him came to this neighborhood, they visited several places; they named one Boston . . . another Meadford, . . . [P. 120.]

This action by Dudley and his associates does not alter the fact that Meadford was settled prior to the arrival of the above party. There is a good reason why the farm that Governor Cradock's servants had planted should be given a distinctive name. All the land on the north side of Mystic river, from Mystic pond to the creek (now known as Island-end river) which separates the cities of Everett and Chelsea, was called Mistick, or Mistick-side; also, the land on the south side of the river was called Mistick. In 1631 the Court of Assistants granted to Governor Winthrop six hundred acres of land, "to be set forth by metes and bounds, near his house at Mistick, . . ." [See map in REGISTER, Vol. 1, p. 123.] July 4, 1631, the governor's bark, the *Blessing of the Bay*, was launched at Mistick. The governor's house, as shown on the map above referred to, was on the easterly slope of Winter hill, near the Medford line, within the present limits of the city of Somerville.

May 11, 1649, "In answer to a petition of several inhabitants of Mistick-side, their request is granted, viz.:

* "1658, May 26. In answer to the request of the inhabitants of Meadford, it is ordered, that all matters of a civil nature arising within their peculiar —— proper to the cognizance of three Commissioners for ending small cases, be heard and determined by the Commissioners of Cambridge." [In the record a word is omitted after the word peculiar.]

To be a distinct town of themselves & the name to be Maulden."*

The celebrated Rev. James Noyes became the pastor and teacher of the inhabitants of Medford in 1634 . . . [P. 121.]

At the first meeting of the Court of Assistants holden at Charlestown, August 23, A.D. 1630, "It was propounded how the ministers should be maintained, Mr. Wilson & Mr. Phillips only propounded." November 30, 1630, "It is ordered, that there shall be £60. collected out of the several plantations, . . . for the maintainance of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Phillips, viz.: Boston, Watertown, Charlton, Roxbury, Meadford, Winnett-semett."

Here we have the names of the pastors and teachers of six plantations, and Meadford's share of the levy was £3. It is not at all reasonable to suppose that Meadford, one of the smaller plantations in the colony, had a pastor and teacher in 1634 in addition to those appointed by the court, and for whose support Meadford had been taxed £3. Mr. Brooks' whole argument concerning "Medford a Town" is based upon statements that are not in accordance with facts.

Ecclesiastical History. [P. 200.]

In this chapter Mr. Brooks again speaks of Mr. James Noyes as a preacher in Medford in 1634, and in a quotation says, ". . . was immediately called to preach at Mistic, which he did for nearly one year." It has already been shown that the word Mistic or Mistick was applied to nearly, if not all, the land on both sides of the river, and also that the same name was applied to a settlement and river, now within the limits of the state of Connecticut.

After he left Medford, the inhabitants received religious instructions from Rev. Mr. Wilson and Rev. Mr. Phillips.

As has been shown heretofore, Mr. Wilson and Mr. Phillips were appointed the official ministers of six planta-

* There was also a place called Mistick, and a Mistick river mentioned in the Colonial Records, over which the Bay Colony had jurisdiction. It is now within the limits of the state of Connecticut.

tions, including Meadford, and these plantations were taxed for their support before Mr. Noyes was alleged to have been located in Meadford.

There are many more errors to which attention might be called, but time and space forbid.

—JOHN H. HOOPER.

MEDFORD'S MYTHICAL APPLE.

Historian of the town was he,
They say he spun a quaint old yarn
About, — and climbed the 'Pecker apple tree.
With apologies to Dr. Holmes.

It was a little over sixty years ago that a very readable and interesting story was written of two young men who walked twenty-four miles to attend a Harvard professor's scientific lectures. The younger was seventeen years old, and had a few years before been taught by a Mr. Hill of Medford. He lived in North Woburn, and may or may not have walked thither, but those were pre-automobile days in 1770.

Of so much of the story there is no doubt; Parson Sewall, historian of Woburn, tells the same story. He, however, says nothing about the "contemplation" by these young men of "tempting red cheeks, on loaded boughs," in Upper Medford or elsewhere. (Of course the red cheeks were those of apples.)

Readable and interesting *stories* are, as Mr. Trowbridge told the writer (relative to "Tinkham Brothers' Tide Mill"), "*mainly fiction*," woven around some historic fact or incident that comes to public attention. The Baldwin apple had come into prominence some fifty years before this entertaining story, claiming Medford as its origination, was written. Governor Brooks had known Colonel Baldwin, and, himself in advanced years, tells his young kinsman Charles about the origin of the Baldwin apple, formerly called the Woodpecker, or, for short, the 'Pecker, and that the tree was on the Samuel Thompson farm. And at his request, in 1813, this spry young man of eighteen years visits the tree, *i.e.*, *a* tree on *a*

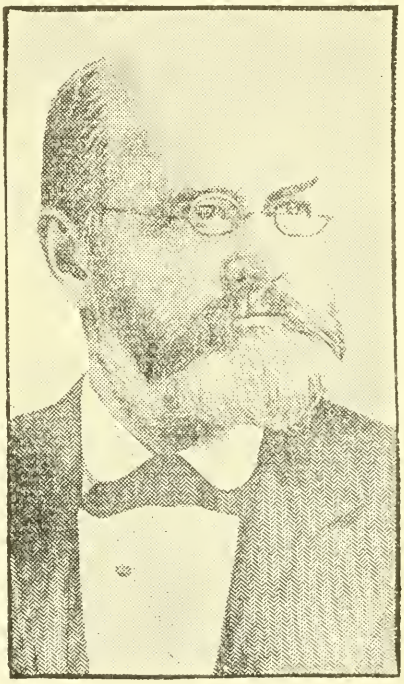
Samuel Thompson's farm. Woburn in those days adjoined Medford, and there were "a regiment of Thompsons in Woburn." One of them, Samuel by name, had a farm just over the line in Upper Medford, and on it, "forty or fifty rods south of the black horse tavern," was the tree the young Mr. Brooks visited. The real Samuel Thompson farm (on which was the tree grafted from the original Woodpecker tree in Wilmington) was seven miles from Mr. Brooks' home; this only two. "It was very old and partly decayed, but bore fruit abundantly." He said he "climbed it." He also tells about the woodpeckers' holes, which he might equally well have found on other trees. Doubtless he thought he had located the tree, mentioned by the governor, on Samuel Thompson's farm in Woburn. Because the fruit resembled the Baldwin, he claimed it as the real Woodpecker tree.

Tewksbury, Burlington, Somerville, and Baldwin (Maine) have claimed the original tree, but the *facts* would seem to be finally fixed by the letter of Colonel Baldwin to Governor Bowdoin, February 13, 1784, when he sent him a "barrel of a particular species of apple which proceeded from a Tree, that originally grew spontaneously in the woods about fourteen miles north of Boston," and Colonel Baldwin *knew the facts.*

Space forbids citing the various arguments in the famous controversy. They were carefully considered by Rev. Leander Thompson of Woburn, in an able article of twenty-four pages, published thirty years ago in the *Winchester Record.* We commend a careful perusal of this, which includes "the Medford claim" of Mr. Brooks, as showing how easily errors creep into public print, and if unquestioned, into public belief. Also, even refuted, they still come into public notice, as did this one in a public gathering in Medford a year since. This is no reflection on the worthy and respected townsman who repeated it in good faith; nor yet on its original author, who was enthusiastic for Medford — but he claimed too much for her, in this as well as in other ways.

AN OLD MEDFORD SCHOOLBOY.

On February 10, at New Bedford, there passed away one, a native of Medford (and whose boyhood days were spent here), who is kindly remembered by his old associates still living. These lines are not intended as obituary; rather an appreciative mention of one we have never met, or even heard of, till in recent years.



Thomas Meriam Stetson was the son of Rev. Caleb Stetson, the second Unitarian pastor of Medford's First Parish. His birth occurred in the house on High street, later the home of Rev. Charles and Miss Lucy Ann Brooks, June 15, 1830. His later boyhood home was the parsonage house, erected on the site of the present St. Joseph's parochial residence. His early education was in the schools of Medford (public and private), and his college course was at Harvard, graduating there in 1849. After study in the Dane Law School, he was admitted to the bar in 1854.

His father's pastorate (of twenty-one years) in Medford closed in 1848, prior to the son's graduation, and this may account for the settlement of this Medford boy elsewhere. He began the practise of law in New Bedford, in 1854, associated himself with an eminent and established law firm, and himself attained and maintained high rank. This is evidenced by the important cases of

both public and private business with which he had to do. After a long and successful career, he was succeeded by his sons, under the name of Stetson & Stetson; but he kept up his daily visits to the office, retaining the service of coachman and "sleek horse" instead of modern automobile.

A few years since, the REGISTER's editor was happily surprised in receiving a letter from Mr. Stetson, which by his permission appeared in our columns (Vol. XIII, p. 93), and which was of much interest. From time to time he wrote us encouraging and appreciative letters, indicative of his interest in the REGISTER and of his boyhood's home and haunts. One day when we were absent from Medford for months, he sent a carefully prepared article (Vol. XVII, p. 73), that in our need at the time was "a bridge that brought us safely over." It was our wish to have presented his likeness with the "Medford Octogenarians" but his modesty forbade; and so the old schoolhouse he knew was substituted.

By the courtesy of the New Bedford *Evening Standard* we are now able to do so.

In the stress of his professional life, Mr. Stetson had not been in Medford for years, and upon receiving the map of the city he requested, found it difficult to locate some old places by present names. Consequently, an article he intended to prepare, came from the able pen of our townsman Hooper (Vol. XVIII, p. 25), and in this, Mr. Stetson expressed a lively interest and satisfaction. It was our intent in the spring to visit him, and hear from his own lips something of our home city in the old days.

His son informs us that he awaited with interest the REGISTER's coming, and read with pleasure its last number; and only the day before his passing away told of his boyhood pleasures along the old canal's banks and especially of the great aqueduct over the river. We would have been pleased to have welcomed him in our *editorial sanctum*, from whose pleasant windows he might

have viewed the locality as it now is, and in which he would have been interested.

From the *Standard* we quote:

In his fine, large estate, on Ash street, Mr. Stetson showed his love for nature, by gathering many of the most beautiful trees and shrubs. In his hothouses, he has grown many strange and curious forms of vegetation, — oranges, figs, bananas, century plants, lovely orchids from far corners of the world, and lordly palms.

There is something pleasant in the thought, even in the solemn presence of death, that he was privileged to live his best years amid such beautiful surroundings, and there die at last at an age to which few men attain.

MEDFORD RUINS REMOVED.

It is rarely that a dwelling built of good material and fair workmanship, with but fifteen years occupancy, goes to ruin, becomes a menace, and is demolished within forty-five years of its building, in a residential locality.

In the winter of 1870 and '71, S. B. Brock, carpenter, who lived in the "Gamage corner," built for Erastus F. Brockway on Cottage street a ten-room, two-story house, with mansard roof of slate and tin. After a few years the elderly owner sold it and removed from town. The new owner and occupant improved it, adding a two-story bay-window that overlooked the vacant land which extended to Prescott street and was bordered and crossed by Whitmore brook. Twenty-nine years ago the family left it and it was ever after vacant. After a time the lawless element began to trespass therein, windows were broken, and at least once it was set on fire. Later the tin roof became rusty and loosened and subject to the winds, which finally stripped it. Then the rains and melting snow got in destructive work, and plunderers followed with theirs. Several unavailing efforts were made by citizen neighbors for its removal by municipal action. We are told its final demolition was at the instance of the state authorities, because of fire hazard. Its removal is certainly a relief to the neighborhood and improvement to the city. That it withstood the destructive

elements so long is due both to the quality of material and construction. Many of those erected in this and other cities within the last ten years, under the same conditions of neglect and exposure, would succumb to the destructive forces of nature in less time, and that, too, despite the improvements of which we boast.

HISTORY FOR MEDFORD SCHOOLS.

A Medford teacher has recently prepared such a work, advance sheets of which have been submitted to us for inspection. They give evidence of much thought and labor in their preparation, quote authorities, and refer to many writings. As a matter of course, the printed histories of Medford are frequently quoted or referred to. After sending the author our criticisms, we gave the sheets to former President Hooper, which has led to the preparation of his article in our present issue.

Mr. Brooks' work was one of the earlier town histories of Massachusetts. He said in its preface, "The gathering of these annals has been too long delayed," and prophesied "discovery of facts" beyond his reach. With no *local* records of the first forty-four years, it is no wonder that he fell into some errors. He was an excellent annalist and wrote interestingly. In his day, and since, he had not the credit he deserved for his work for public education, he was even railed at in the public press. It is not the thought of our present writers to belittle his work, but rather to correct the manifest errors, and, so far as possible, to stop their perpetuation.

We earnestly hope that the work of the Medford teacher alluded to will be completed, and that our local history may be properly taught in our public schools. And now that over thirty years have elapsed since the Usher revision, which covered so little of the thirty previous years, should there not be interest awakened that will secure a new and up-to-date history of our ancient town and modern city in 1920?

Vol. XIX.] [No. 3.

Historical Register

JULY, 1916

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MEDFORD, MASS.

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XIX. JULY, 1916. No. 3.

TWO MEDFORD BUILDINGS OF THE FIFTIES.

UPON the wall of the principal's room in the Brooks schoolhouse hang four pictures of the successive structures that have housed that school. Each is in marked contrast to the other, as might well be expected. It is of the second that we wish especially to treat just now. It is not known that any photograph was ever taken of the building itself. The picture mentioned is a photographic enlargement of the engraving illustrating Brooks' "History of Medford," which was probably made from the architect's drawing, and was made by Erving Conant at the instance of some friend of the school.

Of the earliest West End schoolhouse an account may be found in Vol. VIII, page 75, of the REGISTER, and the accompanying half-tone is a reproduction of the pen-and-ink drawing which is one of the four above mentioned. The most casual glance at this will suffice to show a marked difference from its successor, while the appearance of the second will be striking as compared with the then prevailing style and appearance of schoolhouses.

There was a reason for this. Historian Brooks devoted nearly a page to this house and its public exercises, and records that on March 10, 1851, the town voted to build it and appropriated $2,000 therefor, and says,

> The inhabitants of West Medford, desirous of having a schoolhouse more ample in its dimensions and more classic in its appearance than the town's appropriation would procure, cheerfully united in adding to it, by subscription, the sum of nine hundred dollars.

For some years prior to the writer's advent in Medford he passed to and from Boston on the railway, and often noticed the striking architecture of this building (the more noticeable because of the few adjacent houses), and

very naturally thought it was the village church. Mr. Brooks gives the names of the building committee and adds, "they spared no pains in procuring a skillful draughtsman." We wish he had given his name, as careful search fails to reveal it. He mentioned the builder, George A. Caldwell, but in his history omits many interesting and noteworthy matters because "courtesy," "usage," or "custom forbids."

Not so the committee, however, for in the city clerk's office are its reports, both majority and minority. The former, dated March 1, 1852, shows the entire expense to have been $3,370.82. Of this, $417 was for land at three cents per foot, and $187.52 for furniture and stove. The committee, pleading guilty to exceeding the appropriation, began by saying that one of its number had declined to serve, prior to the commencement of the building. It told of a plan, "presented by a liberal hand," and of $939.55 subscribed toward the construction, "rather than to have a one-story" structure erected. It reported $893.55 of this collected, and that there was still due the contractor $477.27, all other bills being paid. This sum the town later appropriated and paid. This report was signed by John B. Hatch and James M. Usher.

The minority report covers about four times the space of that of the majority, and is signed by Charles Caldwell, who says he "was met at the very outset by one Gentleman of the committee with a cool indifference that both surprised and astonished" him, and intimating that this was because the said "Gentleman" was not placed as chairman by the town. Evidently the committee were not harmonious, as they could not agree on a location, and three lots were named. Mr. Caldwell describes one as being "out of the way of nine-tenths of the children that attend or will attend in future, beside the Continual passing on the Lowell Rail Road trains of Carrs that can be seen and heard for miles, which Certainly would not greatly aid a Close application to study." Thereupon several meetings of the district were held and another lot

chosen, the price of which was *four* cents per foot. At that stage of the matter Mr. Usher was in the minority, but by "his powerful eloquence" in the district meeting this conclusion was arrived at. Then, "that there be no want of excitement the school committee stept aside from their proper Calling in order to give their advice in the matter." Then, after more turmoil, when "one would have supposed there was a foreign invasion by the noise," and "Mr. Smith said he would follow the Committee from the foundation to the pinnacle," the schoolhouse was at last located on land of Samuel Teele at the corner of Brooks and Irving streets. Mr. Caldwell says dimensions were agreed upon and he was asked to, and did, draw plans (a front and side elevation) with which no fault was found, the committee meeting soon after to stake out foundation, and fronting it southwest. Mr. Usher was to proceed with the foundation, as he said he had raised money by subscription for that expense.

It appears from Mr. Caldwell's writing that Hon. Edward Brooks had become interested in the proposed building, and had suggested or offered to furnish plans for the same. These plans, he writes, were "drawn in the old English style," and were adopted, not without his criticism. Then the question of frontage came up again. "Mr. Usher wanted it northwest," and "here was open war again." "Mr. Usher controlled the subscription," saying, "Unless the house fronts to suit me you can have none of this money." At last Mr. Hatch is quoted as saying that he wanted that style of house, and rather than not have it, would vote to front it northwest, though against his wish. Mr. Caldwell closed the minority report with, "I was now fully satisfied that the present majority of the Committee were proceeding without regard to expense or the interest of the town. . . . I refused taking any further responsibility . . . for I was convinced that the whole thing from the beginning was a selfish speculation, Conceived in iniquity and brought forth in sin."

And so at last the house was begun. Historian Brooks tells of the corner-stone laying on the sixth of August. Let us trust that the prayer of the good Baptist clergyman helped still the warring factions. Fortunately the swath the tornado cut two weeks later was a little southward, and the new schoolhouse escaped the fate of the old. On Forefathers' Day, very cold, and a heavy snowstorm under way at its close, the dedication exercises were held. This time the senior clergyman of the town, Dr. Ballou, made the prayer. Mr. Brooks mentions on each occasion original poems recited by pupils. Probably modesty forbade naming their author.

The effort to locate on land of higher price may have savored of "selfish speculation," but at this date we fail to find warrant for the *iniquity and sin* referred to. Possibly the plans finally adopted contributed to the dissatisfaction of the minority, and the final location broke the strained relation. The "old English" architecture of the edifice could not fail of attracting attention, and the more because of its elevated position.

After eighteen years of use, the town decided on a larger structure and secured the present admirable location on High street. In 1869 this second house and land was sold for $1,200 to Edward Kakas, who had it converted into a dwelling-house. The cupola and the four corner turrets were removed and the exterior refinished. The entrance porch forms a bay-window, and the roof is slightly elevated at the eaves. The vertical siding was covered with clapboards, the projecting corners below the turrets removed, and the basal finish still shows the corners filled in. This building is now the residence of George H. Remele.

For some years its arched cupola found a resting-place on the ledge next Hastings lane. Till very recently one (or two) of the tall turrets have stood on the hill slope in the rear of Mrs. Kakas' residence, and within a few months the writer has seen and examined the remains of one. They were octagonal, two feet in diameter, were

of open construction, and each corner was of pine timber four by six inches in size. Their pagoda roofs were of heavy sheet iron, terminating in iron finials, in which were the letters E. B. in monogram. It would have been well if Principal Hobbs' idea of placing it in the corridor of the new Brooks school could have materialized.

Historian Brooks said the locality was "where pure air comes from the heavens, and pure water from the earth" — and hereby hangs a tale, told the writer in 1866 by an elderly Medford man. He dug a well in the dry summer time into a hillside's underlying ledge; a slow, laborious process, and all the broken rock had to be hoisted out in buckets by a windlass. He had excavated below all other wells, and no water was reached. Resuming his work one day he noticed a moist and seamy place in the rock, and struck it with the sharp point of his crowbar. A chip of stone fell off, and a stream of water flowed in. His helper shouted, "*The tub! the tub!*" and before they were hoisted out by the men on the surface the water was up to their necks. The writer had not heard of the Brooks schoolhouse then, but very likely this is the place.

Reference has been made to the excess of expense above the town's appropriation. In the immediately preceding years several new houses had been erected in the "West End," notably those of Revs. John Pierpont and David Greene Haskins, the two Hastings, and two by D. N. Skillings. Beside these were the Wood, Breed and Spaulding residences beyond the railway. These were all large, well-built houses, which shame some of more modern construction. Too large for present-day use by one family, they do not lend themselves well to the recent craze for "two-flat houses." These and the less pretentious ones of that period can readily be identified by careful observers. With these came the call for increased school accommodation and for a meeting-place or social center. So for this latter was the subscription list and funds the historian and committee mention, and

we are told the new school building was for a little time thus used. In 1852 the West Medford Lyceum and Library Association was incorporated, and continued operative until 1871, and may have had its earlier meetings in the school hall, or until the building known as Mystic hall was erected in 1852.

This was done by Mr. T. P. Smith, who was alluded to by Mr. Caldwell in his minority report. Mr. Smith had purchased the almshouse just vacated by the town, thus adding the old town farm to his extensive domain, which stretched away to the river and on which was the large house in which he lived. (See REGISTER, Vol. XI, No. 3, frontispiece, for this and Mystic hall.)

Upon the completion of this structure it became the social center for such public gatherings as the West End had, with those of the Lyceum Association, and there was the latter's library, until placed in the care of the Village Improvement Society in about 1880. Later this building was the home of the famous Mystic Hall Seminary, which was opened subsequent to the death of Mr. Smith by his widow, and which took its name from that of the hall.

During the sixty-three years that have elapsed it has been more or less a social center of West Medford,—seminary, lyceum, Sunday school, union religious services, churches, fraternal organizations, clubs and polling place. It still houses, as it has in all the forty-six years the writer has known it, a village grocery, with the exception of a few months, conducted by the present proprietor. This is not an advertisement, but history, and "custom" need not forbid mention of the name, Joseph E. Ober.

Possibly its owner (its builder's name has escaped us) may have been dissatisfied with the schoolhouse wrangle and erected Mystic hall as a rival; if so he builded better than he knew for a social center, but certainly both these buildings were and are a credit to their designers and constructors, and the latter bids fair to so remain.

MOSES WHITCHER MANN.

STORY OF SONGS FROM THE MEDFORD WOODS.

By Maria W. Wait.

As many of Medford's old-time landmarks and people have interested its citizens of today, it seems as though another memory may well hold our attention, and we may be glad to listen to this lay of Medford woodlands, "Jack-in-the-Pulpit."

These enchanting verses of nature's beauty were written by one of our own townspeople, Caroline Smith, a daughter of Horatio Austin and Elizabeth (Learoyd) Smith, who was born November 12, 1840, at Symmes' Corner, Winchester, said corner at that time being a part of Medford. Always a quiet and thoughtful girl, it was not surprising that some of her thoughts should seek expression even at sixteen years, at which age this poem was written.

The verses were read one day by a friend, Mrs. E. P. Marvin, the wife of the Orthodox minister in Medford, who asked the privilege of showing them to her husband. He also admired them, and after some persuasion Miss Smith allowed him to publish the poem anonymously in the *Boston Recorder*. This was in 1856. Later they were printed in *Gleason's Monthly Companion*, a magazine published during the years between 1850 and the '60s. As Carrie Smith was very retiring in nature, the poem appeared always without her signature.

Other papers copied the verses, and the poem became almost a household friend.

Some years after, the poem, greatly changed, appeared in the little volume named "Child Life," edited by the poet, John G. Whittier. Friends immediately recognized it, however, as the thoughts of "Carrie" Smith, as she was familiarly known, and wrote Whittier concerning it. Some correspondence followed, and the poet wrote Miss Smith, saying the poem had been sent in manuscript form to him by a friend, and at the end of the letter presented this respects and assurances of regret in not having

been able to consult with her at the time of the first publication.

Relative to the explanation the following is quoted from a correspondent: —

"The idea was fine and some of the verses remarkably excellent, but it seemed not complete and some of the lines defective, and supposing it to be his friend's, he (Whittier) re-wrote and amplified it and signed it as anonymous. Only after printing it had he learned it was not his friend's."

"He was very glad to hear of the true author and as he was to issue a new edition of 'Child Life' he would give the credit of the poem to Miss Smith if she would accept the additions and alterations."

The second edition was printed, but by some typographical error the author's name was given as "Clara" instead of Carrie Smith. Here is her poem, and beside it is the poem as accredited to Whittier, appearing in 1871.

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT.

Jack, in his pulpit,
Preaches today,
Under the green trees,
Just over the way,
Close by the mossy
Stone wall; on the air
Ringeth the Lily-bells
Calling us there.
Come — hear what his reverence
Will have to say
To his audience, this sweet,
Calm, Sabbath-day.
Out in the free, pure air,
As, we've been told,
The Puritans preached —
Our fathers of old —
Thus Jack discourses
'Neath the blue skies;
As theirs — perhaps *his* words
May prove as wise.
Lovely the canopy
O'er his head seen,
Penciled by Nature's hand
Black, brown and green;

Jack in the pulpit
Preaches today,
Under the green trees
Just over the way.
Squirrel and song-sparrow
High on their perch,
Hear the sweet lily-bells
Ringing to church.
Come, hear what his reverence
Rises to say
In his low painted pulpit
This calm Sabbath-day.

Fair is the canopy
Over him seen,
Penciled by Nature's hand,
Black, brown and green.

With the same, sombre hue
Painted, I see
The little pulpit
In which standeth he.
The surplice he wears
Is all palely green;
Priest was never before
In such a dress seen.

Green is his surplice,
Green are his bands;
In his queer little pulpit
The little priest stands.

In court-robes of velvet
Black and gold, see,
Cometh with deep, bass voice,
Lord Bumble-bee;
And unseen spirits that
Play the wind-lyres,
Bird voices, soft and sweet —
These form his choirs;

In black and gold velvet,
So gorgeous to see,
Comes with his bass voice
The chorister bee.
Green fingers playing
Unseen on wind-lyres, —
Low singing bird voices —
These are his choirs.
The violets are deacons
I know by the sign
That the cups which they carry
Are purple with wine.

And the brave Columbines
As sentinels stand
On the lookout, with their
Red trumpets in hand.

And the columbines bravely
As sentinels stand
On the look-out with all their
Red trumpets in hand.

Meek, frail Anemones,
Drooping and sad,
In robes all fragile
And delicate — clad;
Buttercups — their faces
Beaming with sunlight;
Clovers, with bonnets,
Some red and some white;
Daisies, — their white fingers
Half clasped, as in prayer;
Dandelions — with their
Bright, golden hair;
Innocents — like children
Guileless and frail,
Their little faces
Upturned and pale;
Wild-wood Geraniums,
All in their best
Robes of soft, lovely,
Purple gauze, dressed;

Meek-faced anemones
Drooping and sad;
Great yellow violets,
Smiling out glad;
Buttercups' faces
Beaming and bright;
Clovers, with bonnets —
Some red and some white;
Daisies, their white fingers
Half-clasped in prayer;

Innocents, children
Guileless and frail,
Meek little faces
Upturned and pale;
Wild-wood geraniums,
All in their best,
Languidly leaning
In purple gauze dressed: —

These, all, are assembled
This sweet Sabbath-day
To hear what Jack
In his pulpit will say.

See those Indian pipes,
That mossy bank near;
I wonder what rude sprites
Have been smoking here!
Jack saw the intruders'
Ill manners, I guess,
And gave a rebuke
For their bold rudeness,
So stern, that, affrighted,
No longer they stopped,
But fled — and in their haste
Their tiny pipes dropped.

Now what of the sermon
That Jack hath preached?
Our wandering thoughts have
Not that subject yet reached.
Ah me! like too many
That go forth to pray
In temples and churches,
This calm, holy day —
Just as many of those
Worshippers, I ween,
We've spent *our* time watching
The audience here seen;
We can tell just what
Their dresses have been,
Criticized their bonnets,
Their looks and their mien,
Have gazed at the preacher,
The choir have heard,
But of the sermon
We know not one word.

All are assembled
This sweet Sabbath-day
To hear what the priest
In his pulpit will say.

Look! white Indian pipes
On the green mosses lie!
Who has been smoking
Profanely so nigh?
Rebuked by the preacher
The mischief is stopped,

But the sinners, in haste,
Have their little pipes dropped.
Let the wind with the fragrance
Of fern and black birch
Blow the smell of the smoking
Clean out of our church!

So much for the preacher:
The sermon comes next,—
Shall we tell how he preached it,
And where was his text?
Alas! like too many
Grown-up folks who play
At worship in churches
Man-builded today,—
We heard not the preacher
Expound or discuss;
But we looked at the people,
And they looked at us.
We saw all their dresses,
Their colors and shapes;
The trim of their bonnets,
The cut of their capes.
We heard the wind-organ,
The bee and the bird,
But of Jack in the Pulpit
We heard not a word!

In 1884 the poem was put into booklet form beautifully illustrated in color, and attached was a copy of a letter

giving credit to Carrie Smith, as Whittier did not wish to claim the originality of the idea.

A book of the poem, with the flowers printed in outline, was published for the use of classes in painting. It was one of a series compiled by Marion Kemble, and printed by S. W. Tilton & Co. of Boston, making a very artistic and attractive volume.

Miss Smith's poems also appeared in the *Portland Transcript*, *Somerville Citizen*, and other papers of note. These attracted much attention and gained her many friends and admirers, and many felt a great loss when Carrie Smith died in 1889. Nevertheless she is not forgotten, especially when each spring "Jack" preaches again in our midst.

Among the poems written, one is quite appropriate here, as it seems a fitting requiem to "Jack" as he steps out of "his pulpit."

AUTUMN'S CHILDREN.

The little gypsy wild-flowers, that so fearlessly were seen
Uplifting brilliant banners from their grassy tents and green,
Have perished in their loveliness, 'neath the destroying blast,
As the first born of Egypt when Death's chilling angel passed.
Autumn is mourning — mourning for her beauteous children dead;
With wailing, sobbing voice of grief laments her darlings fled.
Stained crimson by the tears of blood her smitten heart hath shed,
All slowly fell the maple-leaves upon their humble bed;
And where, in constellations bright, star-flowers upraised their eyes
Unto their sister-stars that smiled upon them from the skies,
Autumn hath wreathed a blue mist-veil above her joys that died,
To sadly hide their sepulchre — the barren, bleak hillside.

Twining white, waxen bells around their hair — a numerous band,
No longer in the meadow-grass the lady's tresses stand;
And at her mirror-brook no more, like a bright, brilliant queen,
Gazing at her rich, crimson robe, the cardinal flower is seen.
The golden-rod no longer flings its yellow plumes on high;
From the clover's nodding globe no more is fragrance wafted by;
No more the lady's-slippers call unto their neighbor-flowers;
"Come, buy these shoes the fairies made — these golden shoes of ours!"

No longer, armed with sharpest thorns, the royal thistle stands,
As if to say: "Who dares touch me with rude and careless hands?"

No more in vibrant, fragile grace, in beauty frail and fair,
The pendant harebell rings its note of music on the air;
The gentian doth its blue-fringed lids o'er its deep casket close
No longer, as it were to hide some treasure from its foes;
No more do constancy's bright flowers, in some secluded spot,
Lift up their eyes of Heaven's own blue, and breathe "Forget me not."

The crickets, in their dusky robes, around their humble bed
Are piping melancholy dirge for Autumn's children dead.
How lonely and how desolate appears sad Nature's face!
Where — as gray age is often seen in rosy youth's embrace —
The ivy 'round the hoar old trees their blushing beauty flung,
And round their rough and knotted arms their scarlet festoons hung;
Where the barberry's coral clusters gleamed, and where the sumac showed
Its gorgeous velvet cones, that 'mid its leaves, wild fires glowed;

Where the vine its purple treasures hung; where lithe birch tree was seen
In its silver coat, and the elm tree in its leafy dress of green;
Now all is sadly desolate; and where was softly shed
O'er hill and dale a rose-hued haze, a tear-like mist is spread.
The sorrowing skies weep o'er the earth, as o'er a blighted child,
And Autumn like a Niobe, with wailing voice, and wild,
With voice of grief and fitful tears, laments her darlings fled,—
Her bright and beauteous children, faded, numbered with the dead.

But faith a glorious promise weaves that from this rustling dust,
His hand who crushed the Autumn leaves has drawn a sacred trust;
A trust that lives forever — aye, a trust of life divine
That yet shall bid the springtide bowers with vernal radiance shine!
So, when in Time's drear autumn we bend in sad'ning prayer
And all the cherished hopes of years strew Grief's bleak hillside bare,
Our Father's hand hath only ta'en the key of joy's attune
Which he shall give us back again in Heaven's eternal June!

SOMETHING ABOUT CAPT. ISAAC HALL.

Eleven years ago a tablet to the memory of Medford's captain of Minute Men was erected at the historic spot where Revere aroused him on the original Patriots' Day. In a later issue of the REGISTER (Vol. VIII, page 100) appeared the address of Mr. Hall Gleason before the Historical Society prior to the erection of this memorial by the Sons of the Revolution, and also a copy of the inscription thereon. In that address, 1789 is named as the year in which Captain Hall died, once directly and

twice indirectly. The accuracy of this remained unquestioned for several years, till early in 1911 a communication from Kansas, addressed to the Historical Society, came into our hands, which we now present:—

On page 100, Vol VIII, of the HISTORICAL REGISTER, appears an article by Mr. Hall Gleason on

CAPT. ISAAC HALL

He is described as a son of Andrew and Abigail [Walker] Hall, born in Medford, January 24, 1739.

Now Capt. Isaac Hall married on October 8, 1761, Abigail *Cutter*, and had a number of children.

The second was Eleanor, born July 23, 1764, and the fourth was James, born December 25, 1768.

Eleanor was married by Peter Thacher on April 24, 1791, to Charles Stimpson the son of Recompense Wadsworth Stimpson, a merchant of Boston, Mass., and the writer of this communication is a grandson of this couple.

The article above cited gives Capt. Isaac's death, (p. 102) (November 24, 1789). This I believe to be a mistake, and that it should be *November 13, 1805*.

The Boston Directory for 1796 and '98 gives the name of Isaac Hall and locates him as a distiller, Distill House square, House No. 12, Franklin Place.

The same name appears in the directories which follow, with his residence on Franklin Place, till 1803, when its occupation is given a boarding house, 12 Franklin Square.*

In 1806 the name changes to *Abigail* Hall, boarding house, 12 Franklin Square,* and so continues for several years.

The Suffolk Co. Deed Records show that one Abigail Howard sold a house at No. 12 Franklin Place to Isaac Hall, distiller, on June 21, 1796. At the time Charles Stimpson (his son-in-law) was twenty-one he began to keep a diary of some of the important events of his life. He was a trader, and from 1789 to 1801 did business at Petersburgh, Virginia, making frequent trips to and from Boston. Among the events so recorded is that of his wedding to Eleanor Hall, on April 24, 1791, and of a visit Isaac Hall made him in Portland from August 1, to September 1, 1801. On November 24, 1805, the record is "Mr. Isaac Hall died at Boston Aged 66"

One other event he records: October 14, 1814, Abigail Hall broke up her housekeeping at Franklin place.

By reference to a Bible Record kept by my Uncle William *Cutter*

* I think this Square should be Place but am too far from the B. Pub. Library and the directory to verify it.

Stimpson.* I find "Died at Our House Sept 28, 1825 Mrs Abigail Hall, Grandmother (maternal) of W. C. S. (a- yrs mo) She was on a visit to us, a stroke of Paralysis deprived her of speech and the use of her limbs, in which condition she lay nine days, and then took flight to that world of Spirits whither she had there long since directed her eyes and thoughts, — and in which, to all human appearances, she was, by God's grace prepared to enjoy the company of those who have been redeemed of the Lord Her mortal remains were disposed of by the filial attention of her son James Hall Esq."

FRED. E. STIMPSON.

By some inexplicable means this communication was mislaid and forgotten and has but recently come to light. It conflicts with Mr. Gleason's statement in but one particular, that of the date of Captain Hall's death, but adds interesting facts of the later days of both Captain and Mrs. Hall. We find in "Halls of New England," by "Rev. David B. Hall, A.M., Duanesburg, N. Y., 1883," the date of death November 24, 1789.

The above work was shown us by Mrs. Annie (Hall) Gleason and is doubtless the basis of Mr. Hall Gleason's statement. By the courtesy, also, of Mrs. Gleason, we have examined the old family Bible in which are recorded the marriage of Andrew Hall and Abigail Walker, and the births and deaths of their large family. This Bible record is, "Isaac Hall born January 24, 1739 died November 24, 1805." Just what reason Mr. Stimpson may have had for assigning the 13th as the day of death, when that diary record he quotes from is 24th, we fail to know. Perhaps he made an error in copying, as it is evident that Rev. Mr. Hall did. As both diary and Bible records agree it would appear that the correct date is November 24, 1805. We have written to our correspondent a note of apology, and insert this as tardy justice to him, and of interest to the REGISTER's clientage. In the thirty years that Captain Hall lived after his march to Lexington he saw the beginnings of national life, but the one hundred and eleven since his passing we will not try to compare.

* William was the son of Charles and Eleanor S. and his middle name was the maiden name of his Grandmother Abigail Hall.

A MEDFORD CITIZEN FROM OVER SEA.

EDWARD KAKAS, for many years a resident of West Medford, was born in Budapest, Hungary, August 12, 1828, the eldest son of Kokesch Josef and Szarka Teriz. Educated in his native city, he there learned the furrier's trade from his father, who later established him in business. On the outbreak of the Hungarian revolution in 1848 he, with hosts of other young men, left everything to join the army under Louis Kossuth, the Hungarian national hero.

Kossuth was born in 1802, and when he grew to manhood entered upon a political career. In his teachings, which were considered very radical by the ruling powers, but were eagerly accepted by the young men of the nation, he advocated the emancipation of the peasants, the freedom of the press, and an independent government for Hungary.

In 1848, which has been called "the year of revolution," Europe was honeycombed with revolutionary ideas. The despotism of the government, which ground down the laboring class, gave rise to increasing discontent and led to a widespread movement to bring the conditions of society up to a higher standard of justice and truth. The first outbreak was in France, but its fires had long been smouldering throughout the land. Hungary was the first to proclaim her independence of Austria, and Kossuth was, by unanimous consent, made the leader. Although he had not been trained as a soldier, he put himself at the head of the troops and shared all their vicissitudes and desperate campaigns. Young Kakas fought all through the war and gained the rank of lieutenant. The struggle was carried on for two years and success was almost attained, but the intervention of Russia snatched the victory from the army, and Kossuth, betrayed by some of those whom he had trusted, was exiled to Turkey. Many of his followers were executed or imprisoned and others escaped to England and the United States. Mr. Kakas was one of those who escaped, first to England

and then to this country. It has been a family tradition that he came over here with Kossuth.

In 1851 Kossuth came to this country as the guest of the nation and was received with every honor. He made a tour of the country, going as far west as Cincinnati and south to New Orleans, arousing great enthusiasm everywhere by his bearing and addresses.

Mr. Kakas came over in 1851, and in 1853 established himself in the fur business in Portland, Me., where he was known as an expert in his line of work. That same year he married Josephine P. Kegler, a native of Weinheim, Germany. In 1855 he came to Boston and started in business on Washington street, opposite the old Herald building, being the first manufacturing furrier in the city. He was burned out in the great fire of 1872, but opened a new store on Summer street, which later, when his sons joined him in business, was moved to Washington street and then to Tremont street, where it was known as Edward Kakas & Sons.

Before coming to Medford to live, in 1858, Mr. Kakas lived in Brookline. His first home here was on Prescott street; from there he moved to Allston street, and in 1862 or 1863 he bought the property on Irving street, which was his home until his death. Here he indulged his love for gardening and cultivated rare flowers.

Mr. Kakas became a naturalized citizen in 1886, when, wishing to visit his native land, he found that, having left it as a political refugee, he could not safely return except as a citizen of his adopted country.

Mr. Kakas died September 18, 1904. His wife, three sons and two daughters survive him. He was a life member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and a member of Mt. Hermon Lodge, A. F. and A. M., and Boston Commandery.

NOTE. — The Hungarian form of the name was Kokesch Edouard, the surname being placed first. After coming to this country Mr. Kakas changed the order and spelling of his name to correspond to the English form and pronunciation.

KATHARINE H. STONE.

MEDFORD MINING MATTERS.

WE asked, in a recent issue of the REGISTER, for information relative to a Medford silver mine. We are now answering our own query, though not as fully as we might wish. We have no scheme to promote, or mining stock for sale. The subject is simply one of historic interest, and worthy of record.

We naturally turn to the files of the press for information of this mining operation of 1881. The Medford *Mercury*, then in its first year of publication, under date of September 17, tells of a visit made by reporters of four Boston dailies. The occasion was enlivened by the presence of ladies, and somebody's "Old Bill" furnished the motive power up Forest street to the Spot Pond house. From thence the party walked through the woods to the scene of operations. There the writer, who signs himself S. W. G., had "a half-hour interview with Mr. Harrigan," from which he deduced the following: —

This mine was discovered by F. W. Morandi of Malden, who was wandering through the Fells for pleasure. He immediately purchased a large tract of land, and contracted for the sinking of a shaft 25 feet deep with a Mr. Halliday. The shaft is now 12 feet deep, the workmen having been about two weeks at work, putting in from 3 to 5 blasts per day, each bringing forth encouraging results. Mr. Harrigan told us, that if in going down the next ten feet the richness increased as it had thus far, the mine would be a paying investment, and in all probability the shaft would be sunk 100 feet.

The first assay yielded $18 in silver, $4 in gold, and the estimate is at present $50 per ton, with copper in large proportions both in sulphide and oxide. The ore is taken to the smelting works in East Boston. About a mile northeast, Matthew Roberton has discovered silver, which is supposed to be an outcropping from the same vein.

On October 15 appears —

That silver mine at Spot Pond is progressing favorably. The shaft has been sunk to a depth of 30 feet, and Mr. Harrigan has contracted to carry it 25 feet farther down. It is understood that the yield is satisfactory thus far, and that more land will be bought for mining purposes.

The above is all that our local paper tells of the mining operations in a technical way. Thirty-three years

had elapsed when we made our query. It was prompted by a telephone inquiry made by some one unknown to us — yes, we have a lot of such, as some take us for an information pagoda. We replied, "There *was* something of the kind, but we have no definite knowledge of it — no — no — we can't tell any lies about it. Good-bye." Some weeks later a very readable and interesting story appeared in the Sunday issue of a Boston paper, with a view of the locality. It located the mine on land of Mr. Willis, and says, "the shaft was sunk to a depth of eighty-five feet, encountering a spring that caused much trouble and that a lateral tunnel was excavated for seventy-five feet and that there all trace of silver was lost." Also that "the work was prosecuted for two years and after $10,000 was expended, ceased for lack of capital."

How true these details may be we know not, save the fact that work ceased, which is self-evident. We have made some inquiry. One man, an assessor of those days, says, "We went up there to see if there was anything taxable . . . found only a hole in the ground . . . no buildings or machinery . . . nothing doing." Others were at the time in question incredulous, saying it was a scheme to sell land. This was before the territory became a public reservation, also before the construction of the Winchester reservoir, which now stretches away from the near-by "Old Tony's ledge," toward the Lawrence observatory on Ram's Head. The spot is shown on the map of the Fells and marked "old silver mine," and the elevation of "Silver Mine hill" given as two hundred and fifty-five feet. At this remote day it is difficult to get at satisfactory conclusions. One says to us, "Fiction is always readable, but don't believe it." The story of night and day gangs of miners, heavy blasting, and richness of ore in recent accounts do not accord with the testimony of old residents. The *Mercury*, in its *resume* of '81, said: —

> Who in Medford would have risked a pair of old shoes on the prophecy, that in the course of the year, silver mines would come

to light within the bounds of the town ? And yet an enterprising genius has brought to light in the vicinity of Spot Pond veritable silver mines, in which there is a stratum of bright possibilities, if nothing more. The resolute miner has faith in his mines and holds out the brightest kind of promise. We hope he will not be disappointed.

The recent writer, to whom we have alluded, tells that boys overturned the engine into the shaft, and the debris of crushed rock had filled it somewhat. To satisfy our curiosity, and equipped with the park commissioners' map, we recently repaired to the "old silver mine." We found "a hole in the ground," or rather in the ledge, rectangular in shape, about eight by ten feet, and perhaps nine in depth. We noted the mound of debris piled beside it, now overgrown, as nature has been kindly at work. We wondered if the *Mercury* man's "bright stratum of possibilities" still remains in the lateral seventy-five foot tunnel the other mentioned, or whether, indeed, that tunnel was purely mythical.

Remembering the "Folly's flower" of our school book, we picked a bunch of columbine for a *boutonniere* as a memory of this old Medford enterprise, wise or otherwise. All the silver we saw was the dime we exchanged for nickels to pay our carfares.

Lead Mining at Wellington.

The latest Medford mining operation seems to be of the placer-hydraulic variety, for lead instead of silver. The product secured by the use of simple apparatus requires no smelting, and is readily marketable at war prices. On the Wellington marshes amateur sportsmen have for years practiced marksmanship with clay pigeons, and have thus "salted" this latest Medford mine with the baser metal of bird shot.

Recently, according to accounts given, numerous children, and some women, have been engaged (when the tide allowed) in digging over the marsh mud and washing out the metal. Fabulous reports are given of the

yield reduced to cash, one sum named would mean a weight of ten tons, which in bird shot isn't a homœopathic dose, though the size is such. Still, the essential fact remains, that Medford mining for lead is a *success*.

Some years since, it was said, a "Marine Salts Co." extracted gold from sea water down on the coast of Maine, for "*divers*" reasons, as its stockholders had cause to remember.

We congratulate the Medford Salt-marsh Mining Associates (*not* incorporated) on their legitimate success, and the originator of this latest mining scheme for his happy thought, doubtless more profitable than the silver mine in the Fells.

THE OLD FOUNTAIN TAVERN.

IN Vol. VIII of the REGISTER is an interesting account of the old Medford taverns. One of these long remained, used as a dwelling in its later years, and is remembered by many Medford people. The author, Mr. Hooper, has since discovered some additional matter relative to one of them and sends us the following item, quoted from Waters' *Newhall Family of Lynn*, which shows its antiquity, and also something of conditions when Medford was *wet*: —

Samuel Wade of Medford, married Lydia, daughter of Lieutenant Thomas Newhall of Malden. He was an innholder in whose tavern, at the sign of the Fountain in Mistick, on Monday the 27th December 1714, arose a brawl between Captain Edward Sprague and Thomas Newhall Jr. of Malden, resulting in the Captain being badly bruised about the head, thrown to the floor and barely escaped being thrown out of the window. As usual both parties seem to have been at fault.

Mr. Brooks, in his history, devotes some space to the Fountain tavern and its signs, saying it was built as early as 1725. He tells of platforms built in the spreading branches of the big trees, and their connecting bridges that reached also to the house, and that these were much used in summer as places of resort for drinking punch and cordials. "Tea-parties were sometimes gathered

there," as though *tea* was of secondary importance, as it probably was. It would appear that the modern roof-garden isn't anything new after all.

In his account, which may be somewhat mythical, he tells of an *earlier* sign that gave the house the name of *Palaver Tavern*, but no evidence of this has been elsewhere found. Now this appellation is quite interesting in its derivation from the Portuguese *palavra* = a word. It was used to designate the parleys or conferences held by Portuguese traders with the native chiefs on the African coast, and very likely introduced here by sea-faring men, a relic of the slave trade. It degenerated from its original significance to that of idle chatter, gabble, and wily flattery (*modern softsoap*), by which some advantage is likely to be taken by shrewd calculators. The alleged earlier sign is said to have had painted upon it figures of two men shaking hands and evidently engaged in conversation, and that they were styled *palaverers*.

On the great thoroughfare from Salem to Boston, this house had extensive patronage. It would be interesting to know why the sign was changed within one year. Probably the liquid cheer there dispensed had an exhilarating effect, and stimulated the *palaver* in its later meanings and caused the selection of "sign of the Fountain." Just how this fountain was depicted we do not know, other than "*pouring punch* into a huge bowl." It is very evident that the liquid was *not water*, or represented in *white* paint. As the Fountain "aimed to be superior to other houses," it had decoctions other than punch to pour from smaller mugs and glasses down the throats of its thirsty patrons.

Probably this was not the only "brawl" within its hospitable walls that proved true the proverb, ". . . strong drink is raging," and in which "both parties were at fault." The innholder was the sixth of the eight children of Major Nathaniel Wade, and the Wades were the solid men of Medford of that day, as witness the "town rate," or tax list, in the ancient record book. After sixteen years

in the business, Samuel Wade was the third in the highest tax payers. Captain Sprague's name does not appear among the sixty-seven "rated" that year, so we conclude he was a guest from elsewhere, and the other brawler was a brother-in-law of the innholder. We may wonder a little if the author of *Newhall* Family (while admitting the fault of Thomas, Jr.,) chronicled the rough handling of Captain Sprague as an example of the Newhall prowess, or creditable to the family. Such scenes were all too common in the old days, and Medford is better *dry*.

A FORWARD MOVEMENT.

At the latest meeting of the Directors it was decided to recommend to the Society the taking of *immediate* action to secure a *permanent home* by the purchase of land and the erection of a suitable building. Eligible sites are being considered and plans and estimates secured. Already a building fund has been commenced. The progress of this forward movement can be hastened by an early and generous response to the appeal of the Directors to our members, and through them to the public.

The design is to build, with masonry walls, a structure creditable to the Society, and adapted to its uses, both educative and social. It is eminently desirable that the same be at once begun, and the opening of the coming season mark its completion and the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the Society.

Treasurer Fuller will immediately acknowledge the receipt of all contributions to the building fund.

7-7-7 — MILITARY CALL.

As in 1775, '61 and '98, Medford men responded to the country's call on June 21, '16. As we go to press, we have only time to allude to our illustration of Medford square which shows Co. E, Fifth Regt. leaving for camp.

MORE MEDFORD MILESTONE.

Since our issue of October last an observant citizen has called our attention to an error we wish to correct. We were told that the first mile-stone of the old Andover turnpike "was removed some years since." As we considered our information correct we did not verify it by a personal visit to the spot. We have recently done so, and find at about seventy paces below the entrance to the Metropolitan Police station the stone in question, which may or may not have been removed during the progress of the work of improvement along the line of Forest street. This stone is shaped much like the second, with a flat surface toward the pike (Forest street). The back and top are roughly curved, and the top has been fractured somewhat. The painted letters, $^{I}{}_{I}{}^{M}$ still show near the top with a larger M beneath them, and lower down and barely legible are $_{Mil}^{I}$ rudely cut in the stone, much as might have been with "hammer and nail" (see page 10, Brooks' "History of Medford") in the hands of an amateur.

This stone is in the grassy slope between Forest street and the Fellsway, upon which last the electric cars and automobiles hurry along in marked contrast to the slow travel of the old turnpike days.

A MEDFORD AUTHOR'S RESIDENCE.

Referring to Francis Green, a Medford author, we said (page 83, Vol. XVIII),

> As yet we have not learned his dwelling place.

Had we consulted our former pages we should have found the following (page 97, Vol. XV),

> Francis Green, . . . came to Medford about 1798, and two years later occupied the house later belonging to Samuel Swan (Watson house.)

We have received the following from the author of the above, which by *request* we insert,

If the editor will refer to the October issue of the REGISTER, page 97, he will find a statement which disproves [?] the one made on page 83 . . . 1915.

We have *now* learned where was the dwelling-place of Francis Green, and on the authority of Caleb Swan, as noted by our contributor, state it to have been in that house next north the old third meeting-house, which was more recently known as the Watson house, and a few years since demolished.

PERSONS SHOULD BE PARSONS.

Not all persons should be parsons, but on page 12, Vol. XIX, the name T. W. Persons should read Parsons. The surname, as printed, "got by" unnoticed. Mr. Parsons was a person, and though his occupation or profession is unknown to the editor, we feel sure that Mr. Parsons was not a parson, but an entertaining writer, translator of Dante, a poet, and one of the story-tellers of the Wayside Inn.

IN THE INTEREST OF ACCURACY.

The writer of the article in the July number of the REGISTER, 1915, on "Turell Tufts and His Family Connections," desires the following corrections to be made in the interests of accuracy, and begs her readers to recall that oft-quoted line,

"To err is human, to forgive divine,"

as an adjustment of the matter.

Page 54. High and Forest streets, instead of Main, etc.

Page 55. . . . the late Dudley C. Hall, whose father Dudley Hall named a child of his, who died young, for this distant relative.

Page 59. Willis Hall (1733–1812), had a daughter Mary (1772–1853) who married Dr. Luther Stearns, December 20, 1798, and a son George H. who married Sarah Chandler of Brattleboro, Vt. Elizabeth (1801–1862) daughter of George H. Hall and his wife Sarah, married George W. Porter, February 17, 1824. They were the parents, etc.

Vol. XIX.] [No. 4.

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Historical Register

OCTOBER, 1916

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XIX. OCTOBER, 1916. No. 4.

THE STORY OF THE WEST MEDFORD BAPTIST CHURCH.

By Frank Woods Lovering.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, April 17, 1916.]

THE life-story of the West Medford Baptist Church spans a few months over twenty years. It was soon after the middle of 1895 that the Rev. James P. Abbott, at that time pastor of the First Baptist Church of Medford, urged upon those of his parishioners dwelling in the western section of the Mystic city the formation of another body. Mr. Abbott saw in the future the opportunity for an organization of West Medford Baptists which now, as we see this end of our city grow, seems a future still, but one even richer in opportunity than it has been in the two decades that have passed since 1895.

Eager to have the denomination of his faith extend its usefulness, Rev. Mr. Abbott encouraged a movement which, in the fall of 1895, took shape in the first meeting of those most vitally interested. This occurred at the home of the late George F. Spaulding, on Monument street — a large, square, old-fashioned residence, with summer house and garden, and fence on every side, that so many of the older ones so well remember; a house which passed as its owner passed. Only memory remains.

Mr. Spaulding was strongly opposed to the proposition. In his opinion the idea was too big to finance. He believed it unwise to make any definite move until it could be seen where the money was coming from. The leaders in the movement who were present refused to be discouraged, and the matter of a suitable building lot was agitated, although no definite action was then taken.

Other meetings were held later at various homes in

the community, notably with Mr. and Mrs. George E. Crosby, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin E. Stevens, and Mr. and Mrs. Lewis H. Lovering. A committee was selected to examine definitely into the matter of a church site, and among these was the Bishop estate on High street, across from the railroad station, and the large Boston avenue frontage of the Spaulding property.

In the meantime, under the guidance of Mr. Abbott, the movement for a church body of Baptists in West Medford took permanent form at an assemblage in Mystic hall on October 20, 1895.

This is the first actual date in the life history of the church. The meetings were held on Sabbath afternoons, with growing numbers, until January 1, 1896, when Rev. Mr. Abbott's duties with his home church increased to such an extent that he was compelled to relinquish his work in West Medford, and, following various supplies, Rev. Arthur A. Cambridge was called to the leadership of the new church body, not then incorporated.

The initial steps toward organization were taken on January 20, 1896. Rev. Mr. Cambridge was called March 5, and came in May from the Baptist Church in North Billerica. On the 9th of May a committee was selected to secure land, since the problem of financing the building proposition had been solved, and it was then that the Spaulding lot was settled upon.

Mr. Spaulding refused to sell the part of his estate directly upon the corner of Boston and Harvard avenues, requiring that the entire Boston avenue frontage be assumed. Out of this grew the parsonage, and oddly enough the parsonage was erected before the church. The committee bought the parcel of land which Mr. Spaulding agreed to sell, and Lewis H. Lovering purchased from the society the two lots adjoining the parsonage lot on the east. There now stand the residences of M. E. Bearse and E. W. Shedd.

On July 9th a finance committee was chosen to raise the funds, and a building committee to arrange for plans

and later make a contract. The drawings of architect G. Leslie Nichols were adopted, and Lewis H. Lovering was selected as builder. Work on the parsonage was begun immediately, and when completed it was occupied by the Rev. Mr. Cambridge. After his retirement it was rented, in order that it might carry itself in the Medford Co-operative Bank. In this connection it is of timely interest to note that on May 1, 1915, the church society became the owner, free and clear, of the pastor's home.

On July 16, 1896, a council of churches was assembled in Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church (Mystic hall being engaged) for the purpose of formally recognizing the organization of the West Medford Baptist Church. Nineteen churches were reported through their delegates, and the young society was thus definitely placed upon the list of churches of the Baptist denomination in the district embracing Medford and adjacent communities.

Ground was broken without delay for the starting of the church building, and the corner-stone was laid November 24, 1896, at 2 P.M., by the late Rev. William Howe of Cambridge, and Dea. O. M. Wentworth of Tremont Temple made the leading address. The church cost, including land, organ, furnishings, etc., $21,507.79, with subscriptions amounting to $8,715.00. Individual contributions in the form of carpets, memorial windows, mantels, etc., added greatly to the original value of the structure.

Easter Sabbath, April 18, 1897, was the date of the first occupancy of the building. Rev. Mr. Cambridge preached an Easter sermon at the morning service and gave an address at night. Formal dedication took place on the following Wednesday afternoon. The Rev. George C. Lorimer, late pastor of Tremont Temple, Mayor Lovering the builder, and other men of prominence made addresses at a banquet later in the day. At this dinner were over one hundred invited guests, besides those who had come to see their dream and the dream of the Rev. Mr. Abbott realized.

Rev. Mr. Cambridge resigned March 5, 1899, and on November 24 of the same year Rev. Truman O. Harlow of Somerset, Mass., was called to the pastorate. He resigned January 6, 1901, to take effect on March 1, but twelve days later, on January 18th, the society chose a pulpit supply committee, which shortly reported in favor of hearing Mr. Nathan R. Wood of Newton as a candidate. He was chosen at a meeting on the 29th of March, and read his letter of acceptance the following Sabbath. Mr. Wood was not then an ordained minister, and this was to be his first charge after ordination.

Thursday, April 25, a council was assembled in the church to participate in the ceremony of the ordination of Mr. Wood, and to confirm the action of the society in calling him to be its pastor. The examination of the candidate proved wholly satisfactory. The council recommended acceptance, and in the evening of the same day Mr. Wood's father, the Rev. Nathan E. Wood, then president of Newton Baptist Theological Seminary, and now pastor of the First Baptist Church in Arlington, Mass., preached the ordination sermon. Other prominent Baptist clergymen had a part.

Rev. Mr. Wood continued as pastor of the growing church until 1911, when the repeated call for him to become dean of the Gordon Training School for Missionaries in Boston grew so urgent that he felt duty bound to heed it.

His going was with mutually deep regrets, but in his place came one who has grown into the hearts of his parish day by day, widening the sphere of the West Medford Baptist Church and its activities, helping with unflagging energy and zeal to build it up to greater good and greater strength and greater things for the people of the growing western section of the city — the Rev. Eben F. Francis, who at the time of his call to this charge was assistant pastor at the Clarendon Street Baptist Church in Boston.

. . . . . .

I have dealt, up to now, wholly with the men, in this review of the West Medford Baptist Church and its development, but the women have always had a prominent part, particularly in assisting financially, when the church needed such assistance. From the beginning there was a strong organization of women who took active part in all the efforts to promote the welfare of the church, and the success of the society has been in no small measure due to their sacrificing efforts. There was at one time a Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society, which was the nucleus of the Farther Lights Society. Out of the latter grew the present flourishing Philathea Class. The Ladies' Social Union was affiliated with the organization almost from the beginning, and the enthusiasm of this body of earnest women has done much at all times to help in the betterment of the church, corporate and spiritual.*

West Medford is growing in a good direction. New fields of religious work are opening with the passing of each new year. Additional families are coming to dwell there; new faces are to be seen in both church service and Bible school, Sabbath in and Sabbath out. There lies the strength of this Baptist body, and there its paths of effort are defined. The church membership today numbers two hundred and forty-one; in the Bible school are registered two hundred and sixty-eight.

. . . . . .

Thus rather briefly I have outlined the birth of West

* In the new church manual, just issued, the constituent members of the West Medford Baptist Church are given as follows: Mrs. L. A. Ambler, Mrs. Mary A. Bass, Rev. Arthur A. Cambridge, Mrs. Belle S. Cambridge, George E. Crosby, Mrs. Augusta R. Crosby, Archer G. Crosby, Mrs. Mary S. Crosby, Miss Cora N. Crosby, Miss Amy L. Crosby, Frank S. Dows, Mrs. Olive M. Dows, Mrs. Mary T. Dows, Robert H. Grace, Mrs. Melvina E. Grace, Mrs. Emma F. Hixon, J. Gordon Kempton, Joseph N. Leach, Mrs. Carrie E. Leach, Mrs. Emma F. Lovering, Charles A. Mitchell, Mrs. Eunice Mitchell, Mrs. Minnie D. Marden, George E. Parker, Mrs. Frances Parker, George M. Ritchie, Mrs. Carrie S. Ritchie, Mrs. Nancy M. Stevens, Edwin E. Stevens, Mrs. Clara B. Stevens, Miss Estelle M. Stevens, Mrs Mary Smart, Mrs. Lucy F. Swett. The first deacons were: George E. Crosby, J. Gordon Kempton, George M. Ritchie.

Medford's third permanent religious body, and its development to the present day through a period of two decades.

Prediction of its future is idle, except to make the safe prophecy that the society must grow as West Medford grows, or else go back. And that it is growing needs no better proof than the presentation of the definite fact that its Bible school quarters have been sadly cramped for a year, and that plans are under serious consideration now for their enlargement. The church itself will accommodate a growing congregation for some time to come, the problem of the Bible school is pressing. But this problem will be met and conquered before very long, for to conquer problems such as this one is the way in which those who formed the nucleus of the West Medford Baptist Church set forth upon their mission.

A MEDFORD MEMORIAL — BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

We notice in the design of the new city hall of Medford a memorial of the soldiers and sailors who have served our country in its wars. Without venturing any criticism on the artistic merits of the same, we wish to say, "It is well, and such recognition should long ago have been made in our public square."

Medford was not, in one way, remiss in her duty in the matter, for within a year after the close of the civil war, the old town erected a sepulchral monument in the silent city of Oak Grove, bearing the names of forty-three "Medford Volunteers who sacrificed their lives in defence of the Union."

It was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on September 6, 1866. Medford had then no local paper to make note of the event, and to which we might now refer. A few programs of the exercises may have been preserved. The publisher of Medford's history of twenty years later inserted in his work a wood-cut of the monu-

ment, but made no reference to it in the text. But that a former editor of the REGISTER made note of it (Vol. IX, p. 33), reproducing the program, inscriptions and portions of the addresses then made, we should have remained in ignorance thereabout. On that occasion Medford's historian, Rev. Charles Brooks, made the address, in which he spoke of the lessons the monument would teach to posterity, when the storms of a century should have blackened its surface. He also said, "Fifty years hence let the hoary-headed soldier come and kneel in prayer as he calls to mind the young friend who fell at his side, and here let the aged mother come, to read the name of her patriot son." He spoke also of the lessons for the historian, the poet, and the statesman. But it is doubtful if many of these visit this memorial, save as the ever-decreasing ranks of veteran comrades do so on Memorial Day. The monument itself is beginning to feel the tooth of time, and its inscription, none too legible, is seen but by few.

Fifty years have passed, and we are writing on September 6, the anniversary day. It had been in our thought for the Historical Society to take some formal notice of this day, on the same spot where Mr. Brooks' words were spoken, and in presence of such Grand Army veterans as might be gathered for such occasion. The pressure of other important matters has precluded this, but we think it both timely and fitting to thus call attention in our columns to this event in Medford's history that occurred a half century since.

It seems eminently fitting that the new memorial we have mentioned should find place in the designing of the new civic structure that must serve for many years to come, and the names of those who gave up their lives in our country's service be there inscribed in enduring bronze.

In our public square, they will be read by many, and such memorial will there teach lessons of patriotism that the memorial erected by the former generation does not and cannot do.

MEDFORD IN 1821.

Now that our old town house and city hall is gone it may be well to consider what Medford was at the time just prior to its building. The story of its construction has been compiled from the records, and ably written in the REGISTER (Vol. IX, p. 40) by Miss Wild, and we commend its careful perusal. The architect was one of the best of his time, and the builders did their work well. What present workmen know how to do such work in wood, now that iron work has come into use?

Our veteran townsman, Francis Wait, has compiled from the state census, taken in 1821, the following items of interest: —

STATE VALUATION TAKEN 1821 TOWN OF MEDFORD

Polls 16 years to 20 years	30	246
Polls 21 years upwards	202	
Polls o not Ratable	2	
Polls Supported by the town	12	
Dwelling houses		152½
Shops in the Same		2
other Shops		19
Distill houses		4
Tan Houses		3
Slaughter houses		3
Grist mill		1
Saw mills		1
Bake Houses		2
Barns		121
other Buildings Value 20 dollars		66
Superficial feet of Wharf		2240
Stock in Trade		5350
Money at Interest		69050
money on hand or in any Bank		18300
Bank Stock		1300
Ounces Plate		575
Shares in toll Bridges		17
Acres of tillage Land		394
Bushells of Rye		65
Bushells Indian Corn		5230
Bushells Barley		295
Beans & peas		6
English mowing		877
Tons Engh Hay		751
Saltmarsh		535
Tons of Hay from the same		416
Cows the whole farm will keep		394
Barrels of Cyder		128
unimproved Land		1253
Land improvable		130
acres of Land for Roads		160
Land owned by the town		10
Land covered by water		434
Horses		105
Oxen		78
Cows		237
Swine		131
Total amount of Real Estate		384440
Total amount of Personal Estate		186259
		570690

Some interesting deductions may be made from these statistics. Medford was then a town of one thousand five hundred inhabitants. The polls were about one-sixth, their votes one-eighth, and the boys and young men (ten to twenty years) one fiftieth of the population; this last seems a small proportion, but perhaps the girls were in the majority.

The number of dwellings shows that an average of ten persons inhabited them, with perhaps two polls in most of them. That half house probably joined the line next Malden, Charlestown or Woburn. Medford was then certainly in the rural district, for the number of barns was four-fifths that of the dwellings. The one hundred and five horses were not enough to allow each barn one, but the cows were enough to average two, though the Medford farms might have accommodated one hundred and fifty-seven more.

Then there were thirty-nine yoke of oxen. Wouldn't they be a sight on the Medford roads today? Who knows when the last ox-team was owned in Medford, or who drove it?

One hundred and thirty-one swine were enough to keep the hogreeve busy. As the family pig was in evidence in those days, the number is not excessive, and probably the piglets were not enumerated.

Medford land produced a little less than a ton of hay to the acre, and the salt marshes about the same proportion. The tillage land was about one-half the grass land and two-thirds the salt meadow acreage, but the unimprovable land we know as the Fells about equalled both the latter. The roads, river and ponds were of about the same area as the productive marshes, and two-thirds the area of the grass land. The tillage land might have been increased one-third, by the area of improvable land.

Medford's staple product (at least as shown by these statistics) was Indian corn. Its barley and rye only about a fifteenth as much, while the *six bushels* of peas and *beans* looks insignificant, considering the proximity to Boston.

No statistics of orchards are given, but the one hundred and-twenty-eight barrels of "Cyder" would have averaged three-quarters to each dwelling. There is no reference to that beverage that made Medford famous, except that *four* distill houses outclassed other industrial pursuits. Slaughtering of cattle and tanning of their hides kept pace with each other in *three* places.

Medford had even then paid the penalty for forest destruction in the loss of its water power of the brooks, and only one grist- and one saw-mill are named, these on the tidal river. Its two "bake houses" were the predecessors of the Medford cracker.

Two householders had shops in their dwellings, and nineteen other shops were named. Perhaps some were the little New England shoe-shops, though these last may have been among the "other buildings, value 20 dollars" that numbered sixty-six.

Parson Osgood, in his somewhat peculiar letter to his sweetheart, tells of some Medford people being "bridge mad." Not the *present* "bridge" of social functions, but Malden bridge across the Mystic. Here is the evidence, "Shares in toll bridges 17."

It would be interesting to know how the Medford tradesmen did business with a stock of only fifty-three hundred and fifty dollars, but prices were not like today's. The wealth of the little old town is indicated by the items, "Bank stock, money at interest and on hand"; while the "ounces of plate" shows the style affected by the wealthiest ones.

We have read somewhat of the ship-building and commerce of Medford, and the wharfage space (only fifty per cent. larger than our new society home covers) seems rather inadequate.

If we add the old third meeting-house (there was then no other), the few schoolhouses Medford then had to the barns, houses and half house, and include the shops and all other structures, we will find that three hundred and seventy-five will be an ample total for the Medford buildings of ninety-five years ago.

Our city has grown from this to its present proportions during the lifetime of our friend who has copied and sends to the REGISTER these statistics, which we have thus reviewed briefly. Doubtless by others many other interesting points may be seen.

MOVING FORWARD.

In our last issue we alluded to a forward movement. This issue is delayed that the progress of the same may be recorded as current Medford history.

The Historical Society has purchased of the city of Medford a somewhat peculiar but eligible site on Governors avenue and begun the building of a permanent home. Work thereon has progressed so far that the foundations are laid, the basement enclosed and floor-timbers in place.

On Saturday, September 30, the corner-stone was laid with appropriate exercises. During the weeks the work has been in progress there was but little rain, but on Friday evening the intense heat and drought was terminated by a copious rainfall and a resultant change in weather conditions. But for the contrasting chill and breeze the day was ideal for the occasion, and at four o'clock members and friends in goodly number assembled, filling the improvised seats on the temporary floor, for the beginning of the realization of a cherished hope and fond dream.

It was fitting that the last speaker in the old home should be first in the new, and so Rev. Anson Titus of Somerville gave the invocation: —

God of the nations, Jehovah of old, Thou art the guardian of the generations, Thou preservest the people, thou knowest all they do and desire. Thy presence we invoke in the placing of this stone, which we pray may be set for Thee and the welfare of Thy people; that on this corner may be builded that which will be for the preservation of interests dear to this city. Thou wast with the fathers, we pray Thy presence with the sons. Gather with us, keep near to us, make us to serve and honor Thee ever, evermore. Amen.

The President then made a brief historical statement, saying that this occasion was the beginning of the twentieth anniversary celebration, of which we trust the "housewarming" will be the finish within this year 1916. The greetings of the city were briefly and ably spoken by His Honor, Mayor Haines. Former Presidents Will C. Eddy and Henry Edwards Scott gave expression of their satisfaction that at last the Society was to have an attractive and convenient home. Their remarks were followed by the poem written for the occasion by a member (who modestly wished his name withheld), and read by Miss Alice E. Curtis.

Beside the banks of Mystic stream,
The scene of Winthrop's toil and dream;
And Cradock's pride in power of State,
And Royall's house of beauty great;
A home of modern day we raise
With grateful thought of earlier days.

Could Winthrop stand upon this spot
Well might he say "I know it not,"
And Royall from the stately home,
Whose acres broad he loved to roam,
Would gaze with a bewildered look,
Back to the mansion he forsook.

And are we in Old Medford still,
Woods, streams and pastures, vale and hill
All changed in form by modern hand?
Our forebears could not know this land.
We miss the forms by Nature lent,
We bow to change by centuries sent.

Changed though the land, by Nature given,
Old Medford's spirit works its leaven,
And memory clings to days of old,
With reverent thought their good we hold,
Though changed be wood, and field and hill,
To us it is Old Medford still.

How best to show the love we bear
And others lead, our work to share,
To safely guard through fleeting time,
The treasures that deserve a shrine,
This building to such work we give,
Historic Medford long shall live. —C. H. L.

The congratulations of neighboring societies were extended in felicitous addresses by Hon. James Parker Parmenter, President, of Arlington; Charles Edward Mann of Malden; and in absence of President Carpenter, by Albert L. Haskell of Somerville. The President then read a list of the contents of the copper box to be deposited beneath the stone: —

First and latest issue of the REGISTER.
Latest issue of *Mercury*, *Messenger* and *Review*.
Boston Transcript, September 29.
Medford City Manual, 1916.
Historic Festival — On the Banks of the Mystic.
List of members at present date, September, 1916.
List of Presidents of the Society.
Poem written for the occasion.
Sermon and address at 250th Anniversary of the First Church in Medford.
Medford High School *Review*, June, 1916.
Course of Study in Medford High School.
Directory of Teachers in Medford High School, 1916–17.
Photograph of old City Hall.
Print of new City Hall.
Banquet Program, 275th Anniversary, June 15, 1905.
Commemoration Exercises, June 15, 1905.
Dedication Program enlarged High School, November 20, 1914.
Catalogue of Loan Collection at Royall House, October 12 to 20, 1896.
The Parada given by the Medford Historical Society, 1903.
Annual Announcements of Medford Historical Society.
Lincoln Centenary, February 12, 1909.
Book Plate of Society (impression).
Guide to tablets marking historic sites, 1905.
Indian arrowhead, found on High street near Train estate.
Cheese, cracker and rum with certificate.
Medford Granite, Medford Red Gravel, wild flowers and sumac leaves from lot.
Card of Inspector of Buildings.

Some merriment was indulged in as those typical of "Old Medford" were named.

The stone was donated by the West Medford Real Estate Trust, which purchased the grounds and mansion erected by Hon. Peter C. Brooks in the years 1802–6.

This is now gone, and the stone is that of the front entrance porch and carriage drive, and now, after a century's use, is of historic interest, and bears the incised date of its new use, 1916, on its circular front.

Prayer was next offered by Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Leitch of Trinity Church (Methodist Episcopal)

"O God our help in ages past
Our hope for years to come
Our shelter from the stormy blast
And our eternal home."

As needy as any that have passed before us in the journey of life we lift our hearts unto Thee our Heavenly Father, the Creator, Redeemer and Saviour of mankind. Hear, we beseech Thee, our humble prayer, and inspire our hearts to keep Thy law. We pray Thy blessing upon this gathering. Bless this enterprise. Bless the officers, the members and friends of the Medford Historical Society. We are met to lay the corner-stone of this building. We are reminded of the passing years. We build to preserve that which other hands and hearts have cherished and loved. Some day other hands and hearts will gather to preserve from the ravages of time that which we hold precious, that through which we pass our lives. May we learn wisdom from what this hour suggests. Help us in the building of our lives to build upon the imperishable. May the corner-stone of our characters be built upon the Rock of Ages, may it be plumbed and squared with the principles of truth and righteousness and laid in the cement of eternal love. Impress upon our minds the truth.

"The boast of heraldry, the pomp of power,
And all that beauty, all that wealth, e'er gave,
Await alike the inevitable hour.
The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

May Thy blessing rest upon the city of Medford and its inhabitants. Bless the chief executive the mayor, and those who hold offices of trust. May each use his office for the welfare of the municipality and feel that trust is of God for the welfare of the people. Bless the commonwealth of Massachusetts, the governor of the state. Bless and endue with wisdom the legislators and administrators of law. May righteous laws and sound discretion preserve us from calamity. Help us to learn that "Blessed is the people whose God is the Lord and blessed is the nation that maketh God their trust." Hear us, O God, our Maker. Pardon our sins, bring us at last unto Thyself.

All of which we ask in the name and grace of Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

The company then repaired to its site, and after depositing the box in the concrete base the stone was placed in position by the President, assisted by workman Kelley. Symbolical of the varied talents which are brought into the work of the Society, the mortar used in its setting was of a composite character. Water having been taken from the city supply, the reservoir on College hill, Mystic lake and Spot pond, was mixed with salt water from the river and the soft rain water that fell on the previous evening. This was used in tempering, and finally poured upon the stone by our Secretary, who also provided the beautiful wreath of salvia and bouquet of wild flowers that lay upon it. The President applied the plumb and level, and finding it correct, with a hammer struck three blows, declaring it well, truly and safely laid, adding, "May the Giver of all good

> 'The heads that plan endue with skill,
> The hands that work preserve from ill,
> That we who these foundations lay
> May bring the capstone in its day.'"

Two verses of "America" were then sung, with cornet accompaniment by Mr. George Weston, and the benediction pronounced by Rev. George M. Butler of the Mystic Church.

MEDFORD MARKET-PLACE MADE MODERN.

In the June (1915) issue of the REGISTER we recorded some current history under the above caption, alluding to a proposed improvement not yet realized, and suggested some that might later come. Relative to this we quote our own words: —

> It will only remain for the city of Medford to cure what need *not* be endured, by the purchase of its neighbors' holdings on both sides of the ancient but much-maligned city hall, and erect on their sites a substantial municipal building such as may spread its protecting mantle over the less beautiful neighbors' defects. Then Medford square, bigger, better and busier, may be made modern, and creditably, too. Will this latter ever be history?

We think it will, judging by present appearances, though we scarcely expected the change so soon. The above came from the press early in June (Vol. XVIII, p. 46). In the *Medford Mercury* of June 25 the mayor wrote to the public, saying,

"I shall ask the aldermen to assist me in purchasing at a reasonable figure the building in the square next the present city hall, and we can then cut off the corner into Main street and open up Medford square where the city hall now is and build a municipal office building.

We are aware that as usual in such matters there are differences of opinion relative to sites. These we are not discussing. We are recording matters of history. At the present writing all the five buildings have been razed and the space between High street and the river lies open, but not for long, as contracts for the foundations of the new structure are awarded. This will certainly be in marked contrast to those removed, and will add to the attractiveness of our water park as no business buildings that *might* (or more likely might not) be erected could do. By courtesy of Mayor Haines we present a view of the same, made from the architect's drawing.

The city's executive offices are at present housed in the new "Medford Building," recently erected on the sites of the old Seccomb house and Tufts hall. Into this several Medford merchants have moved and some new business concerns have come. Medford's old marketplace is thus made *more* modern, "bigger, busier, and better."

LAWRENCE LIGHT GUARD HOME AGAIN.

After four months' absence (almost to the hour) Company E, Fifth Regiment, returned on October 21, with unbroken ranks, from their service at the border.

Met at Tufts square by the veterans of the Grand Army, and city officials, and escorted by the high school battalion, in solid formation with swinging stride our

soldier boys marched into Medford square at 11.45 o'clock to the inspiring strains of "Onward Christian Soldier" by the Everett City Band. At Governors avenue the column turned, and recrossing the square marched to the common, where the greeting and welcome of the city was extended by the mayor, after which the assembled throng gave expression to theirs in three rousing cheers and a vociferous tiger. The march was then resumed to the armory, and as the great doors closed behind them the boys realized it was "home again" for them.

In our last issue we had barely space (page 70) to allude to their departure, which we witnessed, and to call attention to our illustration, showing the company at attention during the mayor's address. As we flung out the flag in greeting from the window of our rooms, where we also watched their departure, we could but notice a change in the appearance of the assembled throng. The tense, strained look upon the faces of the elders had given place to glad smiles and shouts of welcome, and behind it all, a thankfulness that Medford's boys had *all* come back. And the Grand Army men, the Boys in Blue of the Civil War, though now so few, in their welcome of the Boys in Khaki, showed the same feeling, intensified by the memory of *their* times and home coming. The events of today are history tomorrow. As such the REGISTER notes this event, and our laureate adds the following tribute: —

COMPANY E.

In days of June, sweet smiling June,
When queenly roses bloomed,
The peace that brooded o'er our land
Was threatened by a hostile hand,
Black clouds of warfare loomed.
The states were roused from sea to sea,
We said good-bye to "Boys of E."

We hear the trumpet's joyful sound
One bright October day,

And streets resound with rhythmic tramp
Of men returning from the camp
Flags blazing all the way.
While eager throngs press close to see
And welcome home the "Boys of E."

Quick beats our heart for soldier lads,
We hold them as our own.
In peace, in war, whate'er the call,
One crowning thought must govern all,
One flag, one country, one alone.
Secure our faith shall ever be,
That duty rules the "Boys of E." C. H. L.

A MEDFORD TEACHER.

ELLEN M. BARR.

About half-way between Mt. Monadnock, N. H., and Mt. Wachusett, Mass., lies the little village of New Ipswich, N. H., where may be found a large old-fashioned mansion dating back to 1768, and belonging to the Barrs.

On one side stands a large willow tree with the most comfortable rustic seats built among its trunk-like branches. In this colonial house, with its large fireplaces and cozy-corners, was born, in 1840, a little girl destined to become one of Medford's most beloved and influential teachers.

The *New England Magazine* states that James Barr, a Scotch gentleman traveling in the American colonies, was caught here when war was declared against Great Britain, and falling in love with a bright-eyed New Hampshire maiden, never went back to his Highland home.

"His son, Dr. James Barr, prominent as a physician in New Ipswich, endeared himself for miles around for his sturdy character and genial wit." He married Laura L. Bellows of Walpole, N. H., daughter of Col. Caleb, and granddaughter of Gen. Benjamin Bellows, an officer of the Revolutionary War.

In the Barr mansion Dr. and Mrs. Barr reared a family of seven children, the following of whom have been connected with Medford's history: Mr. George Barr, who

married Maria Lawrence, purchased, but never occupied, the Royall House. The last of his life was lived in a house built by his brother-in-law, Samuel T. Ames, on Oakland, corner of Chestnut street. Mr. Ames's son, James Barr Ames, was dean of Harvard Law School. Another brother-in-law, Sanford B. Perry, Esq., built and occupied the house next to Mr. Ames.

A sister, Miss C. Frances Barr, was a Medford teacher from 1853 to 1858. Medford's school report for 1854 has the following: —

> The Everett Primary School, taught by Miss C. Frances Barr, maintains with great evenness its former high reputation. An incumbrance of overgrown and ignorant boys, some, twelve years of age, whom the committee thought it wise and just to retain at their true level, has been a source of trial to teacher and committee; but the perseverance of Miss Barr has not been thereby foiled of its reward.

Miss Ellen M. Barr, the youngest of Dr. Barr's children, came to Medford a young girl, attended our high school under Mr. Cummings, and later gave to its teaching force a part of her active and earnest life. In answer to my inquiry, her sister, Miss Fanny Barr, writes: —

> There was nothing unusual in my sister's character in her early life. She, like many New England girls, was bright, affectionate and wide-awake. She began her education in the public school of her native town, afterwards attending our Appleton Academy and then going to the Medford High School. She was a pupil of Mt. Holyoke Seminary, and also had private instructions in music and language in Philadelphia.
>
> At the age of eighteen she went as a governess to Arkansas, in the family of Hon. Robert W. Johnson, a member of U. S. Senate and of Jefferson Davis' Cabinet during the Civil War. She was there two or three years, thoroughly enjoying her duties and the delightful society with which she was brought in touch. So loyal was she to the North, that she refused to sew an Arkansas star on a Confederate flag, and left the South on the last train that could bring her to the North.

Her first school in Medford was the Swan Intermediate, which she taught from November 11, 1861, to April 1, 1864. One of her pupils, Mr. Herbert N. Aker-

man, recalls the fact that the children picked lint and made stripes and epaulets for the soldiers. He also told this incident, which occurred when Miss Barr was attending the high school. A classmate of hers, feeling sure of her position at the head, made this remark, "It is rather monotonous, being at the head all the time." Miss Barr quickly responded, "Then I'll break that monotony for you." This she did, and retained the place till the close of the year.

Miss Barr was called to the high school to be Mr. Charles Cummings' assistant March 1, 1866, which place she held until the summer of 1875, when she left to devote a year to study in Europe. At this time her salary amounted to thirteen hundred dollars, the largest sum she received in Medford. In the school report for 1875–6 may be found this comment: —

> Miss E. M. Barr's return to her place in the school was greeted with satisfaction by her old pupils and by the public at large. The committee have seen with pleasure that she brings to the discharge of her duties all her former energy and enthusiasm, securing even more than the old measure of success.

At the end of the term of 1877 Miss Barr left Medford to take charge of an endowed school for girls in South Boston. The school report for that year reads as follows:—

> The committee were reluctantly compelled, at the close of the summer term, to accept the resignation of Miss Ellen M. Barr, she having a call to a higher and more lucrative position in Boston. The committee gratefully acknowledge the service she rendered to the High School during her long connection with it. She brought to the discharge of her duties not only sound scholarship, energy, and habits of systematic labor, but a weight of character which did much to elevate the tone of the school.

Mrs. Walter Cabot of Brookline, wishing to open a school in Boston for her own daughter and a few of their friends, invited Miss Barr to take charge of it. After two or three years in this school Miss Barr decided to open a school of her own. For this purpose she built a house in Marlborough street, and met with eminent suc-

cess. The History of New Ipswich, referring to this effort says: —

> Miss E. M. Barr's school for girls in Boston for ten years was recognized as one of the best ever conducted in that city. Few teachers in New England have had the confidence and admiration of so great a circle of friends.

In 1893 she gave up this school and made a journey around the world, returning in May, 1894. She was taken very ill in India and never fully recovered.

In February, 1895, I had the extreme pleasure of meeting Miss Barr in Boston, and took advantage of the much-longed-for opportunity to say, "If I have the influence over one of my pupils that you have had on *my* life I shall feel that that life has not been lived in vain." The smile of heart-felt pleasure she gave me will never be forgotten.

This was my last opportunity. The following week brought the sad news that our beloved teacher and friend was at rest.

At the twenty-fourth annual reunion of the Medford High School Association Miss Annie H. Ryder, a pupil and afterward an assistant of Miss Barr's paid the following tribute to her memory, which I fully believe was heartily endorsed by every one who came under the influence of this more than teacher. She said: —

> "My friends, since you welcomed to your last reunion, as guest of honor, a teacher of former years, she has gone from this life. The nights of her earthly striving, the nobility of her endeavor, are changed. Yet human hearts are frail to bear the parting from lives like hers — so strong in themselves, such inspirations of strength unto others — that not even the thought of death occurs to us in regarding them. Small though my tribute be—a mere blade of grass where else should be the victor's wreath — in all gratitude and love, I place it to the memory of Ellen M. Barr; a woman who inspired love of duty as few can inspire, aye! made it sacred to every pupil whose life she touched; a teacher who lifted the eyes of her scholars to culture's heights, and never allowed them to look upon anything debasing farther down the way. Her memory lives in lives made better, stronger, happier by her presence, and though time pass, the responsibility she imparted to make the utmost of one's self —

this will hold her forever in our hearts. O, say not the past has no charm like the present, when it has given us a teacher and friend like this! Say not that such lives have not been at the very foundation of present prosperity."

What more fitting tribute to a teacher! Just to see her was an inspiration. I dearly prize this quotation she wrote in my album, for her life proved that she believed it:

"Howe'er it be, it seems to me
'Tis only noble to be good.
Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith, than Norman blood."

She left to Radcliffe College between fifty and sixty thousand dollars, to be used as scholarships. Some of Medford's girls have taken advantage of the privilege so graciously held out to them.

ANNIE E. DURGIN.

AT OUR SOCIETY'S MEETINGS.

We resume the record closing in Vol. XVII, p. 72, and begin the season of 1914–15.

On October 19 Moses W. Mann presented "The Cruise of the Merrimack," an extract of which appeared in the REGISTER as "Medford Steamboat Days."

November 16, Rosewell B. Lawrence, Esq., gave us a delightful illustrated account of his "Trip to the Hawaiian Islands."

December 20, Mrs. Augusta Brigham read her interesting story, "Ten Soldier Brothers in the Revolution."

At the annual meeting, on January 18, 1915, Mr. John H. Hooper read of Aaron K. Hathaway, "An Old Medford Schoolmaster."

February 15, Mr. George C. Wolkins of the Old South Association read, "The Old South Meeting-house."

March 15 was "Old Home Evening," when Mr. George Hersey, in an informal talk, with numerous lantern slides, presented the old landmarks, dwellings and citizens of earlier years.

April 19 was a patriotic observance. The President

directed the exercises and was ably assisted by the Misses Rowan, Falt, Grimes and Meloon, the latter furnishing mandolin selections, and also playing the old London piano. This gathering was the one most fully attended in the season.

May 17 proved a very stormy day, and the attendance at what proved to be the last meeting in our old home, as well as the last meeting of the season, was extremely small. Rev. Anson Titus of Somerville gave a most interesting lecture on "Some Economic Conditions at the Close of the Revolution."

The season of 1915–16 found the Society housed in hired quarters (as the REGISTER has noted), and opened on October 18. The President read his "message," which is on file in the records, making a clear statement of the Society's affairs. These were discussed at some length and laid over till the next meeting. Light refreshments were served.

The November meeting was devoted to discussion of ways and means, and the reports of committees relative to securing other and permanent quarters.

On December 20 Mr. Charles F. Read, clerk of Bostonian Society, gave "A Schoolboy's Recollections of the Civil War."

The annual meeting, January 17, 1916, was devoted to reports and election of officers.

February 21 we were honored with the presence of George and Martha Washington, in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Fenton, who sustained their parts with dignity and grace. Master Topezia and Miss Jergueson, also in costume, vied with their elders, and danced a minuet to the accompaniment of the ancient seraphine. Mr. Edward Finnegan (High School, 1916) read the Farewell Address, and mandolin music was rendered by Miss Myrtle Meloon and Mrs. Grace Savage. Among the patriotic airs was the "Star Spangled Banner," which brought the company to its feet. As in the previous year, this was the largest attendance.

On March 20 Mr. Gordon Boit Wellman of Malden entertained us with the "Ornithology of Middlesex Fells," to the delight of all.

The paper at the meeting of April 12, by Mr. Frank Woods Lovering (who was unavoidably absent), was read by Mr. Edwin Crosby — "The Story of the West Medford Baptist Church." The choir of that church sang several hymns to the airs of "Duke Street," "Coronation" and "Miles' Lane," organist Sefton accompanying upon the seraphine. The external accompaniment was a *deluge* that made the attendance unusually small.

On May 15 a goodly number assembled to hear of "The American High School," from Principal J. D. Howlett, an address of unusual interest. Adjournment was made, subject to the call of the President, and on Friday, June 30, a meeting was held to hear and act upon committee's recommendations. These were adopted with conditions (already met), and by adjournment another meeting held on September 29, when report of progress was made, as appears elsewhere in this issue.

ON THE UPPER MYSTIC.

Passers along Boston avenue, while crossing Canal bridge, frequently stop to view the river, the sweep of the parkway and the railway arches over both. But more are especially interested in the incessant bubbling in the river's surface, a little way down stream. Many conjectures are made as to its cause, some very fanciful. The majority attribute it to a subterranean spring, stronger than the river's flow. It was first observed some twenty years since, and is more noticeable since the building of the dam at Cradock bridge, and the consequent cessation of the tidal flow above said dam.

Comparatively few know that at this point a branch of the Metropolitan sewer passes beneath the river, and that air from within its siphon is forced through an imperfection in its masonry. It has been thus from its first use, and efforts to remedy the same have been unavailing.

THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL REGISTER

VOL. XX, 1917

PUBLISHED BY THE
MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEDFORD, MASS.

MEDFORD

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

CANAL AQUEDUCT ACROSS MYSTIC RIVER, 1865.
Old house in distance is that of Henry Dunster, First President of Harvard College.

The Medford Historical Register.

VOL. XX. JANUARY, 1917. No. 1.

MEDFORD'S DISUSED SUBWAY.

[By Moses W. Mann.]

WE remarked recently in the hearing of several persons, "There's a subway a mile and a half long in Medford." Our auditors, first incredulous, were later curious to know where it might be, and we told them—of its size, location, and purpose for which it was constructed.

It lies beneath Jerome and Sherman streets, crosses under High, and extends through the former Brooks estate to Mystic upper lake. Its terminal stations were the brick gate-houses beside the river and above the dam that separates the two divisions of what used to be called Medford ponds ere this was built.

It is, or rather was, a sub-waterway, the conduit of the Charlestown Water Works. At the time of its building, public water works were confined to the larger cities. The city of Charlestown, after considering various sources of supply, decided upon Medford pond, whose watershed extended backward to the divide between the Ipswich and Aberjona rivers in Wilmington.

By natural configuration Medford pond lent itself well to the design. The Narrows, or the Partings, were the names by which the location of the impounding dam had been previously known. It must have been a picturesque spot. We have found no view of it preserved by artist's brush or pencil of those pre-camera days, but have heard it much spoken of.

Two wedge-shaped portions of Medford and West Cambridge extended into the pond so nearly that a plank would bridge the strait, and in which was but slight fall.

Of this entire work of so much magnitude and importance but little has been preserved in Medford annals,

and but for the fact that one of the engineers engaged on the work made a private record of his doings from start to finish it would be difficult at this time to ascertain the facts.

Preliminary surveys were begun "on a high bluff east of the Narrows on April 14, 1862," by two engineers, with a laborer to assist, and on April 16 Roberdeau Buchanan joined them. It was he who made the record to which we allude. It is illustrated by accurate drawings of the entire work, explanatory of the text of his record, and is now in the office of the Metropolitan Water Commission, by whose courtesy we were permitted to examine its interesting pages and compile this account.

These engineers reached Walnut hill, the site of the distributing reservoir, on April 25, 1862, and it is interesting to note just here, that in their more than two-mile walk they passed near to no dwellings until reaching Winthrop, then called South street, where there was a house which was later the residence of Mr. J. W. Perkins. Seventeen houses, four of which were upon the Brooks estate, comprised all then west of and near the railway, and but three buildings housed Tufts College then. Contrast this open plain and hill-slope with existing conditions and population.

On April 21 another party began a survey westward toward Wyman hill in West Cambridge, on which the reservoir would have been located had that route or plan been chosen. But the eastern route, suggested by engineers Baldwin and Stevenson in 1859 was decided upon and work begun thereon by survey on May 19, 1862. The actual work upon this portion was begun on January 8, 1863, in the construction of the coffer-dam for the gate-house and bridge across the Mystic.

Just here we obtain a hint of the forestry conditions at the "Partings" then existing:—

> Piles, of white oak *recently cut near* the pond . . . 11 pairs 13 feet apart and 15 feet between the two rows, driven 4 to 5 feet below the bed of the river.

These piles supported a narrow bridge 143.9 feet long, and were a part of the coffer-dam within which the conduit was built beneath the river. This conduit here consisted of two 36-inch iron pipes, placed five feet from centers, laid in and covered with concrete and puddled on either side. The cost of this (bridge and pipe) section was $6,700.00.

We were told years ago by Supt. Luther Symmes, that at that time the commissioners made effort with Medford selectmen to have our town share in the expense of a wider and more desirable bridge, as this was in the line of a proposed street, but without success. Built as originally designed, and though the traveling public had no right therein, it served as the only passage across the river between Harvard avenue and Winthrop street until Canal bridge and Boston avenue were opened. It continued in use until 1910, and since its removal has been greatly missed.

The two iron pipes mentioned form 485½ feet of the conduit from pump-well to gate-house. The remainder is of brick construction, the lower portion a semicircle of five feet inside diameter, the upper an oval of two axes, giving an inside height of five feet and eight inches. The invert is laid in a bed of concrete, and in various places this required a pile and timber support.

As the lower pond received the inflow of the tide twice daily, an artificial channel with automatic gates was made in the river below Wear bridge to keep out the flood, and removed at completion of the work. Even then, and with the aid of two steam pumps, but 30 feet could be built at a time, and some sections had to be rebuilt because of insecure foundation.

Inlets were provided in the top at regular intervals, but nearly all were permanently covered beneath the surface of the ground, leaving but a few with removable iron covers. We recall one of these near Harvard avenue, which was a sort of way-station used by the operating workmen, who entered for the purpose of sweeping the

bottom, which had but one-inch incline in 100 feet on its course.

Among the trees (the "Mystic hickories") on the Brooks estate was a star-shaped brick structure, about nine feet high, with overhanging roof, which served as a ventilator. We once saw an attractive water-color of this in a West Medford home and hoped to secure it for illustration. Recent inquiry failed us, and it is probably lost. No longer needed, this structure was removed in the building of the Parkway.

The conduit in one place lies close to the course of the famous old waterway, the Middlesex canal. Indeed, the old canal contributed to its construction by the removal of one of the banks to grade over the new structure, as shown in Mr. Buchanan's drawing and record.

The slopes of the old Middlesex Canal have been cut down as far as the conduit is built so as to make a four-foot fill on the center and eight feet wide on top, and from the outer edge of the canal to the inner edge of the back filling it is graded off like the following section.

[Then follows drawing.]

The conduit was finished on October 12, 1864, and on October 31 water was let in as far as the waste-gate near the river and all loose dirt washed out, and on the following day to the pumping station.

Two years and a half had elapsed since the engineers began work. The entire system, of which this was but an essential part, was also complete and ready for service. At one time three hundred and fifty men were employed, making a scene of busy activity along its course through Medford.

The completed works supplied not only Charlestown, but Somerville, East Boston, Chelsea and Everett, and were taken over by Boston on the annexation of Charlestown, and later by the Metropolitan Commission. Because of the pollution of the water by the leather factories of Woburn and Winchester this Mystic supply was abandoned in 1898, and since that time this brick conduit

has been the disused subway of which we spoke in beginning. That it will ever be used again now appears unlikely, unless, indeed — and who knows? — some new and now unthought-of industry, public or otherwise, should arise, to which this great work of a half century ago may in some equally unthought-of way lend itself.

Of the dam at the "Partings," the pumping station and reservoir we may make other mention as of interest in Medford annals.

MEDFORD HILLSIDE.

There are many of them, but the term is distinctively applied to but one, the northwestern slope of Walnut, now for half a century called College hill. As a portion of the so-called Hillside district is included in the level plain beside the railway, and its development has been in a way different from the real Hillside, this sketch will deal with that mainly.

The name came into use when the present station house of the railroad was built. Prior to its building, the depot, as it was called, was on the opposite side of the railway cut, reached from the tracks by one long flight of stairs, and was appropriately known as Medford steps. When disused, the old station house was moved to Auburn street near the river, and later crowded out by the Parkway to Cotting street, where it now remains, a dwelling.

From early times there had been two "rangeways" through this territory, from Menotomy road to the Mystic, one became Winthrop street in Medford, the other North street. The first proved the most convenient stopping place for the Medford patrons of the railroad, which laid its track between two towns all the way from Boston to Lowell.

The college was established in 1850, and had only three buildings when the reservoir and gate-house was constructed in 1863. One dwelling, the home of J. W.

Perkins, had been built on Winthrop street west of the railroad a little earlier. C. C. Stevens came next in 1870, building his house on North street. No highway crossed the Mystic between Winthrop and Usher bridges till 1873, so when Mr. Stevens moved his barns from his former residence on Warren street in West Medford, they went via High street to Winthrop square, crossing the river and railway on the Winthrop street bridges, then down across the field, a roundabout journey, to the spot where one still remains. At that date, the embankments, tow-path and bed of the disused Middlesex canal could be plainly seen, extending from Cotting street westward to the railroad and through the Somerville appendix, to the river. The slowly decaying aqueduct, with its abutments of boulders and its granite piers, still spanned the river —a picturesque ruin. Because of the fact that a citizen of Medford, Nathan Brown, had eyes to see, and skill to paint, and that others appreciated his work, we of today may know how that locality appeared in 1865.

When Mr. Stevens moved to the Hillside, in 1870, Medford's entire population west of the railroad consisted of an even dozen of families. In 1871 the new owners of the Smith estate (the level plain of West Medford) purchased a tract called the "Osgood estate," bordering on North street. This was laid out in small lots, with Adams and Quincy streets intersected by others, and plans plotted. The long-disused stonework of the canal aqueduct invited a crossing of the river by Boston avenue, and strange to say this was opposed by some. The wisdom of the county commissioners in its laying out is amply justified, however.

In those years the elder Josiah Quincy of Boston had formulated a plan which resulted in a co-operative company of fifty working men, called the "Quincy Associates." Their purpose was the acquiring of homes of moderate cost, in a manner similar to the methods of the co-operative banks. Mr. Quincy was indeed, a little later, the originator of that banking system in Massachusetts.

The Associates divided into two branches, one selecting home sites in Dedham, the other at Medford Hillside, mainly on Adams street. Those locating at Dedham erected houses chiefly of one design, which was in accord with Mr. Quincy's idea. It was a forerunner of the Queen Anne style that obtained later, and perhaps designed by an artist friend of Mr. Quincy.

The Medford section became impatient at the delay in the financing of their enterprise, and some proceeded to the erection of houses on the lots they had selected. Six were built in the fall of 1872, five constructed by the late John H. Norton. Four were practically of the same design, and the other planned by the writer, who built the sixth to plans made by its owner. All were on Adams street and were, on completion, occupied by Messrs. Fuller, Rockwood and Moakler (on the left going south) and Messrs. Bartlett, Cooper and Briggs on the opposite side (returning). Mr. Cooper, after some years, removed from town, while only Mr. Rockwood remains a resident. Mr. Briggs died eighteen years since, and Messrs. Moakler, Fuller and Bartlett more recently. Others of the Associates came in later years, but not all.

The force-main of the Charlestown Water Works was laid through this territory, and over it one street, known by various names — Lawrence, Waterworks and Capen — intersected North, Quincy and Adams streets. Several others of shorter length were opened, and on all, houses were erected, some by Mr. Perkins and Mr. Stevens, the earliest comers.

Topographically considered, this section of the town was peculiar. The railroad bounded it on one side, Winthrop street and the lofty reservoir, then but eight years built and by some thought a menace, formed another, while the zig-zag boundary of old Charlestown extended from Winthrop street around it across the railroad to "Second beach," which is now only a memory. Between this crooked line and the winding river lay a portion of Somerville, partially marsh-land. On this were three

residents, Thomas Martin, William McCracken (better known as Billy Hamilton, "the wild Irishman") and Bernard Born, the engineer at the pumping station of the water works. Thus in a measure isolated, the Hillside people have always had a neighborhood feeling, and on several occasions local celebrations of public holidays, creditable both to promoters and participants.

Close under the shadow of the college the little (?) red schoolhouse found a place, as also did churches, which first met in private houses, later acquiring attractive houses of worship.

After forty years the unsightly and malarial Alewife brook, that made the outer Somerville boundary still more crooked, has been transformed into the Menotomy river. The Mystic and Powder House boulevards have been built, with Somerville field between. These are not a part of the Hillside but adjoin and affect it. It is an historic fact that the first Massachusetts governor, John Winthrop, got lost in the Charlestown woods that were on this hillside, and here spent a lonely night, waiting for daybreak. It is also said that Burgoyne's army from Saratoga cut off the trees from this same hillside during their winter stay in Medford as prisoners of war.

The establishment of the college and the building of the water works were notable events; but the steady development of the Hillside began in 1872, when the Quincy Associates came. All were worthy men and good citizens. One of the two families that were the first residents is now represented by the son and daughter of Mr. Stevens, who still reside in the house their father had erected on his hillside cow-pasture. Mr. Brown's picture shows the former, when a boy, driving the cows homeward on the old tow-path. We read today the written observation of a surveyor in 1862: "About half way up hill is a swamp about eight hundred feet long." Through this was laid the force-main of the water works. Mr. Stevens' house is just on its border. Built around it within six years are numerous houses. Across Capen

WATERWORKS BRIDGE ACROSS THE MYSTIC AT JEROME STREET.

One section of piling removed for passage of dredger.

TEMPORARY DAM ACROSS THE MYSTIC AND NEW CHANNEL OF MENOTOMY RIVER.

Courtesy of Medford Mercury.

street and between the eight hundred and seventy-seven feet of Medford-Somerville boundary line (bounds sixteen to seventeen) we recently counted thirty-one two-apartment houses erected since August last, and more begun, and this on the identical spot above noted. Truly "the fashion of this world changeth."

It is a far cry from those conditions and pasture land of those days to the conveniences of today, the present avenues, busy factories, trolley cars, numerous stores, churches, schools and club house, apartment houses and comfortable homes.

On the southern side the growing city of Somerville is building close up to Medford border and the Somerville appendix may soon become congested. It would be well if by some legislative surgery it might be operated upon, that the western end of our city might no longer be separated because nearly two centuries ago some Charlestown folk had a cow pasture beside the river and wished to retain it. This should be a part of Medford Hillside.

MYSTIC RIVER MADE OVER.

Could some old observant Medfordite of seventy years ago pass over the river's entire course in a forty-foot motor-boat (as we did last summer), or along the Parkway in a swift automobile, he would note a marked change from the Mystic of his time.

How these changes have been wrought is worth noting in Medford history, even though it seem technical. With our knowledge of modern engineering difficulties, we have wondered how Labor-in-vain was cut off.

Our river is deeper now than before, though from Wear to Cradock bridge no tides ebb and flow in its less serpentine course, because of the dam at the latter site. But how many know of another dam that once lay across its course? In the work of deepening the channel below Usher bridge a dredge of the "orange-peel" type was

used. This was mounted upon a double scow and deposited the material on either bank. The season of 1908 was one of drought, and the natural flow of the river was insufficient to float the dredging apparatus when the tides were no more. To relieve the situation a temporary dam of earth was built just below the mouth of the tributary Menotomy, more commonly called Alewife brook. Some twenty feet of its overfall was made with sand bags that resisted the action of the water. This dam raised the river in its upper reach about eighteen inches, and served its purpose well for some weeks. When no longer needed it was removed, leaving no vestige thereof to tell of its existence.

The Register herewith presents the visible proof of the above, looking from the Somerville side of the Mystic toward West Medford. A portion of the Mystic is seen undredged. Beyond this is the overflowing stream, while to the left is the higher earthwork portion of the dam. The water in the immediate foreground is the new Menotomy, not then cut through to the Mystic. Farther away to the left a wider excavation was made, and in this the Parkway bridge was built ere the water was allowed to flow in, an engineering process that materially saved expense, as but little pumping was required to keep the "hole in the ground" free from water during the time of construction.

It was just a few rods further up-stream that Thomas Broughton built his "corne and fulling mills in the River of Misticke" and constructed the first dam across the river in 1656. In dredging the river at this point the clay he used therefor two hundred and fifty years before was encountered and was with difficulty removed. From this point down stream to Cradock bridge the water was allowed to pass out at low tide, revealing what the eye of mortal had never seen before — the bottom of the river, across much of which one could walk with comparative ease. When the river was refilled it was by allowing the salt water to come in from below the

dam, and we were fortunate in securing a view of its inflow up-stream under Canal bridge.

These pictures prove what might otherwise be doubted in later years, and may well be of interest in the future.

M. W. M.

AN OLD LANDMARK.

In the year 1769 Mr. John Bishop sold to Mr. Noah Floyd one acre of land on the south side of the road (High street), opposite the site of the Unitarian Church, with the proviso that no building should be erected on the same within three rods of the road without permission of the selectmen of Medford or their successors in office. Also a tenement or dwelling-house on the north side of the road occupied by William Tufts. This house stood upon the site of the Unitarian Church and was removed to its present location on the land above described to make way for the new third meeting-house, the land on which it stood having been selected by the town of Medford as a site for the new meeting-house. May 14, 1772, the selectmen of Medford gave liberty to Mr. Noah Floyd to build a shop on his land before the meeting-house.

A noticeable feature of this house is that the living rooms are at the northern side, this being caused by the removal and reversed frontage in its new location. This house has been known in recent years as the "Magoun cottage," and was damaged by fire in March, 1915. The shop has long since disappeared, and a portion of the land is now occupied by the street, the use of which for street purposes was probably anticipated by Mr. Bishop when he conveyed to Mr. Floyd, although it was over one hundred years before it became a portion of High street.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

AN UNSHADED RIVER.

"It seems strange to see a river with no trees on its banks." Such was the remark made by a visitor while looking at our Mystic and its nearby Parkway. "Well, there's a reason," we replied, "for till recently the river has been salt, because of the tidal flow from the ocean."

In the construction of the Parkway, along the marsh-land, provision was made at regular intervals for shade trees by excavating a "tree pit" some seven feet in diameter in the salt mud and filling the same with a suitable soil, in which trees (many of them oak) have been planted. But nature is doing something closer to the river's edge in a few — very few — instances. On the river bank, down stream from Canal bridge (Boston avenue), are two birches, now about twenty feet high, that have sprung up in the made land beside the Metropolitan sewer. These are close to the water's edge, and have sprung up since the exclusion of the tide-water. At the top of the bank are two elms that started earlier in the fill made by expressman A. W. Welch twenty years ago, and on which he erected his stable. This was his business quarters until taken over by the Park Commission. These trees are not in Medford however, but in Somerville, and within the Mystic river reservation, and their roots are above the former tidal flow at its highest.

Till recently we supposed these birches to be the only trees on the banks of the Mystic. We find, however, that there are two smaller ones just below the Metropolitan pipe bridge. But for an example of nature's work in recent years, look along Meeting-house brook, both below and above Winthrop street, and see the numerous birches there rapidly growing.

It is but six years since our opening remark was made by one unaccustomed to a treeless river bank, and as in future years conditions may well be different, we make note of this as worthy of record. It would be well if the ravages of the gypsy moth could be thus remedied on the rocky hill slopes about the source of Whitmore brook.

ZIPPORAH SAWYER.

1819-1916.

[Read before the Medford Historical Society, December 18, 1916.]

Miss Sawyer was born in Bolton, Mass., August 31, 1819. Her ancestors were of that vigorous, self-reliant stock of New England who worked not only for the settlement and progress of their native towns, but were engaged as well in affairs that advanced their country. Miss Sawyer's grandfather, Benjamin Sawyer, served in the war of the Revolution. Her father, Dr. Levi Sawyer, was the physician of Bolton and of all the country around. He was a man of marked individuality, a quality our townswoman inherited to a high degree; she was Miss Sawyer on the street, in the church, in the committee room, Miss Sawyer and no one else.

Her earliest years were spent in her Bolton home, where, as time went on, she combined the duties of a farmer's daughter with those of a doctor's helper, for in those days of thrift and industry a profession was rarely separated from the work of the farm. As her mother died when Miss Sawyer was only four years old, she devoted much of her girlhood to the care of her two brothers, she being the oldest child of her family. It was with pride and sincere satisfaction that she spoke of having mothered her younger brother Rufus from his tenth year. Her friends and large number of acquaintances can testify to the wonderful unity of thought and feeling that existed between the brother and sister, a closeness and harmony that lasted through Mr. Sawyer's life. Her older brother, Sterling Konisky Sawyer, passed much of his life on the home farm in Bolton, where his children and grandchildren now live. From this early life it is easy to see whence Miss Sawyer's domesticity, industry and thriftiness sprang, qualities, alas! from which our new race and complicated ways of living are falling rapidly away.

Passing out of girlhood Miss Sawyer devoted herself to teaching. She graduated from the Bridgewater Normal

School, where her brother Rufus also received his professional education. She taught at first in the towns neighboring upon Bolton — Boylston, Northboro, Marlboro, as well as in Newburyport. Then, in July, 1857, she came to Medford.

Just at this point our enthusiasm for Miss Sawyer and her work is especially aroused, for there are few of our Medford citizens who realize how sincere and widely spreading her interest was, not only in the schools of her town and city, but in every smallest concern of Medford for the past fifty-nine years. It was an interest that did not flag, up to the very day of her death. She taught eighteen years, most of the time as an assistant to her brother Rufus, in the Everett Grammar School. She numbered many of our residents among her pupils, whose respect and gratitude bear ample testimony to her lasting influence. On resigning her position as teacher in 1875, she was elected a member of our school committee, the first woman, I am told, to be elected to that board. She remained in this position eighteen years, filling the difficult office of a general mediator between homes and schools. She was eminently just in her duties as school committee, and always strove for the good of the individual as well as for that of the town. She had great insight into whatever was practical. She served her town with unsparing zeal, and all for the general good.

After her retirement from the school board Miss Sawyer spent her years dispensing liberal hospitality in her home on Salem street. Here her brother Rufus died in 1896. Left alone in the home where for so many years brother and sister had lived as one life, Miss Sawyer bravely clung to the interests that had always been hers in the affairs of home, church, town and nation. Though so thrifty a New Englander that the pence were as important to her as the pound, so thrifty, indeed, that she amassed a goodly property, she was generous with her means and her benefactions were numerous. The Historical Society of Medford can testify to her liberality, so can the church of her choice in Medford, Bolton and

Northboro. Other organizations benefited by her gifts, the Teachers' Guild, the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Bolton Library, the Unitarian Ministerial Fund, and probably other institutions.

In religious belief she was a Unitarian and was consecrated to the work of that church, interested in its charities, devoted to its literature, and particularly loyal to the First Parish of Medford.

Miss Sawyer died October 24, 1916. Her very long life of ninety-seven years, while not full of great events, was remarkable for its evenness, steadiness of purpose, calmness of judgment, lack of violent, impassioned activities that rend souls. Her interest in life never grew less. The last political situation discussed in the morning paper keenly aroused her, and a detailed account of the last library book brought to her was sure to be a part of her conversation with her callers. She loved the world she lived in, even though for the past few years she had to view it from the easy chair in the corner of her living room.

The Rev. Benjamin Bailey, her cousin, at the funeral services of our friend, tersely and beautifully expressed the leading trait of Miss Sawyer's character. "She was a searcher after truth." The facts of the case were what interested her. She was not given over to sentiment or emotion, but she stood on the solid ground of reason, justice, right. Not that she was unfeeling, oh, no! She might speak her mind plainly, but if she did it brusquely not a day passed before she set matters right in her neighbor's heart as well as in her own. Sensitive herself, she was sensitive to the feelings of others. Indeed, there was a kind of tenderness in her heart which extended from her care of human beings down to the animal kingdom.

We cannot pay Miss Sawyer the debt we owe her, but we can stop to consider what she has given to our past, we can be grateful for the influence she leaves upon her city and her friends. To many of us she seemed, as Lowell says, "The type of the true elder race."

ANNIE H. RYDER.

FRANCIS A. WAIT.

Passed out of this life, Francis A. Wait in his eighty-eighth year, on Tuesday, December 12th, 1916, at his home, 63 Ashland street. Here, on December 15th, a very stormy day, his funeral services were conducted by Rev. Louis C. Dethlefs, pastor of the Unitarian Church.

Mr. Wait had resided on Ashland street with his three sisters, Misses Susan M., Hetty F. and Sarah H. Wait, for some fifteen years. The family previously lived in a house on Main street, near Cradock bridge, the site of which was included in the takings of the Metropolitan Park Commission. This house was on the site of the Wait homestead, and was built to replace the one destroyed in the great fire of 1850. The burned house was the house in which Mr. Wait was born, July 28, 1829, the second son of Nathan W. and Susan (Smith) Wait.

His father and his grandfather were blacksmiths. His father's grandmother was Sarah Bradlee Fulton, and Mr. Wait was an attendant at the exercises of dedication of the monument placed in the Salem-street cemetery in her honor by the Sarah Bradlee Fulton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

He received his education in the Medford public schools. When quite young he learned the trade of a blacksmith in his father's shop, and successively as apprentice, journeyman, foreman and master mechanic, was employed by the Boston and Maine railroad for a period of thirty-two years, in the locomotive department. Retiring therefrom he busied himself in "farming" about the home, and "always found something to do," as he himself said.

Mr. Wait's great-grandfather (on the maternal side), when five years old, witnessed the battle of Lexington, whose scenes were so distinctly impressed on the lad's mind as never to be forgotten. By inheritance (or otherwise) Mr. Wait possessed a remarkable memory and was quite an authority on Medford in the 50's. He furnished the material for several articles in the HISTORICAL REGISTER

under the caption "Reminiscences of Medford Fifty Years Ago." He was a Mason, a member of Henry Price Lodge since 1863, in religion a Unitarian, in politics an Independent.

By appointment, the writer of this article walked with Mr. Wait during the forenoon of a fine day in September last, up Forest street, by Bellevue, and Quarry road around Pine hill to the main highway, recalling the names of the families who forty years since occupied the houses by the way, paying special attention to the remaining evidences that quarrying stone was a considerable business eighty years ago, looking at the dignified profile of the "Old man of the Fells," viewing Wright's pond from the site of the old pumping station, and inspecting the station of the Metropolitan park police. Mr. Wait evidently enjoyed the woods walk and spoke with much satisfaction of the time when he owned a boat and made frequent trips on Mystic river both ways from Cradock bridge, and on Mystic lake.

He was well liked by both social and business acquaintances and had a pleasant salutation for each. As a member of the Medford Historical Society he was interested not alone in the REGISTER, but in its collections as well. He contributed some old Medford town reports, in one of which he took pleasure in showing me the amount of taxes paid by Ackerman & Philbrick (my grandfather and great-uncle), owners of one of the afore-mentioned quarries. He was also interested in our new home, visiting it several times a week to watch its construction and talk over the plans with the building committee.

The Society needs new members to fill the places left by such as he. Who, who will now take their places in our ranks?

H. N. A.

A RECEIPT IN FULL.

But a short time before his passing away Mr. Francis Wait brought us two slips of unruled paper, yellow with age, but on which the ink is black and permanent, and legible as when written one hundred and thirty years ago. We reproduce their words as nearly as can be in type, wishing we might the excellent script of the writer.

Dr. Mr. Zakariah Sims to John Fullton.

1785		
Aug 3	To 4 Gall° Rum & Sundries a 2/	£0.8 –
	To 1 Gallon Mollasses	" 1.9
	To 1 Mollasses Hoghead	" 5 –
	To ½ Barrell Rum 15½ Gall° a 1/6	1.3.3
	To 10 Gall° do a 2/	1 —
		2.18.0
	By 1 load Salt-Hay —	

This slip had been folded four ply to the size of 1¾x3¾ inches, and endorsed on the end.

Zakariah Sims
Acct —
1785 —

Both parties were Medford men; the first was great grandson of Reverend Zechariah, the first minister of Charlestown to whom a grant of land was made, which later became a part of Medford. By inheritance a portion remains in the family name today in what used to be called Upper Medford, the Symmes Corner of present Winchester. This Zakariah was a farmer, and even yet his descendants till the soil in a more intensive way. John Fulton, it seems, doubled the *l* in his name — it is supposed that he knew how to spell his own, if he did not his customer's. But it was probably Zack, and phonetic spelling in those days.

He was the husband of Sarah Bradlee Fulton, for whom our local Chapter of the D. A. R. was named. We are informed that he was a distiller and "book-keeper at the distillery." The time of this bill is just after the close

of the Revolution and before the adoption of the Constitution, yet the same is in English money.

What the "Sundries" were does not appear, nor yet their value, as the amount carried out only equals the rum part of the charge. There also seems a disparity in the prices with ten gallons at two shillings and fifteen and one-half at "one and six," with the half barrel "thrown in." Perhaps the "Sundries" were also.

With molasses at "one and nine" and rum at "one and six" we are led to wonder wherein lay the profit of the rum manufacture. Mr. Brooks wrote "It was never a profitable branch of trade; and till 1830, it ruined many persons who entered it."

The load of salt-hay of which Mr. Fulton could not carry out the price, was a product of the lower Medford marshes, which Mr. Symmes, like others of upper Medford, owned.

These papers were found in Mr. Fulton's desk. How the account was settled does not appear, but a few years later these Medford men had a settlement, as appears by the following in the handwriting of Mr. Fulton and signed by Mr. Symmes.

Received Medford 3d Feby 1790 of John Fullton One pound & four Shillings in full, of all Accounts debts dues or Demands to the above date as Witness my hand

£1 " 4 — Zechariah Symmes

Still English money — and during the first administration of Washington, who visited Medford the previous year, and was doubtless seen by both these old Medford men.

ANOTHER ANNUAL APPEARANCE.

The present number of the REGISTER is issued from the new home of the society, 10 Governor's Avenue. Though it is not wholly completed, the Society has moved in and will gradually get settled in its housekeeping arrangements, and hopes to present a view of it to our readers on our next cover page. This will take the place of the old

familiar one, and a description of our new home will then be in order.

Already three meetings have been held in its assembly hall, and as its lighting system is not yet installed, kerosene and the more ancient candles have served for the time. We confess to a feeling of disappointment that our appeal to our membership and the public has not met with a more generous response, and that the final completion of the work is being thus delayed for want of funds.

It is our earnest desire that the building be completed without any mortgage debt resting upon it to hamper the work of the society in the future. To those who have generously and readily contributed to the building fund our most sincere thanks are due, and to those who have had only discouraging words to contribute — we ask, What are you doing to help? The places of those that have passed on should be filled by new workers and our membership doubled.

The subscription list of the REGISTER should be also doubled, and both objects can be attained by interested effort. The past year has been the best in the history of the REGISTER (save one of its earlier), and we hope to improve upon this during the current year.

Just here, we wish to acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. C. H. Tinkham for the excellent photograph of the cornerstone laying (secured under difficulties), and of the American Engraving Co., who kindly furnished the halftone cut of the same. By an oversight these acknowledgments were omitted in their proper place in our last issue. This mention is better late than never.

When settled in the new home, members and friends will have better opportunity than ever before to see what the REGISTER has been doing for the Society and for the preserving of Medford history during its nineteen years of publication.

This issue begins a new volume and is unavoidably late; but we hope our next will be nearer on time and prove of interest as current history.

ol. XX.] [Nos. 2, 3.

HISTORICAL REGISTER

April, July, 1917

PUBLISHED BY THE

MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

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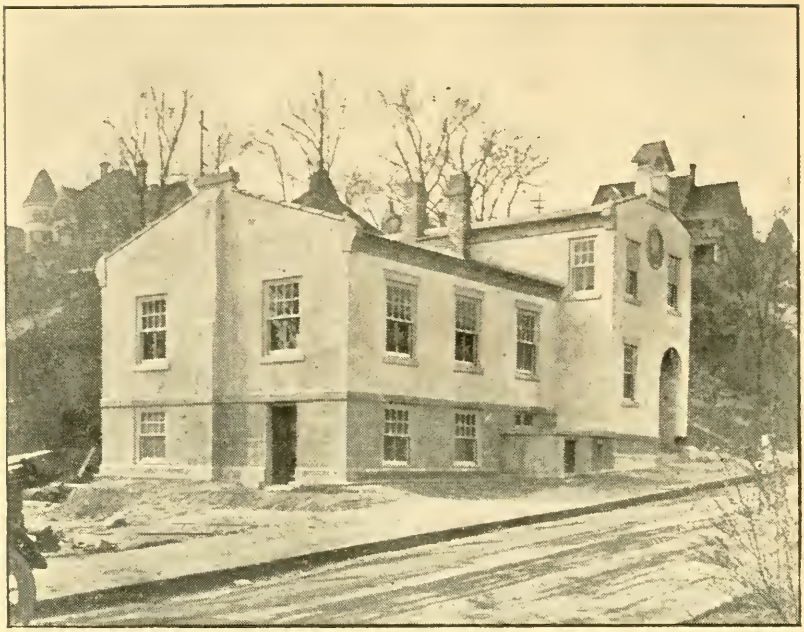
FORM OF BEQUEST.

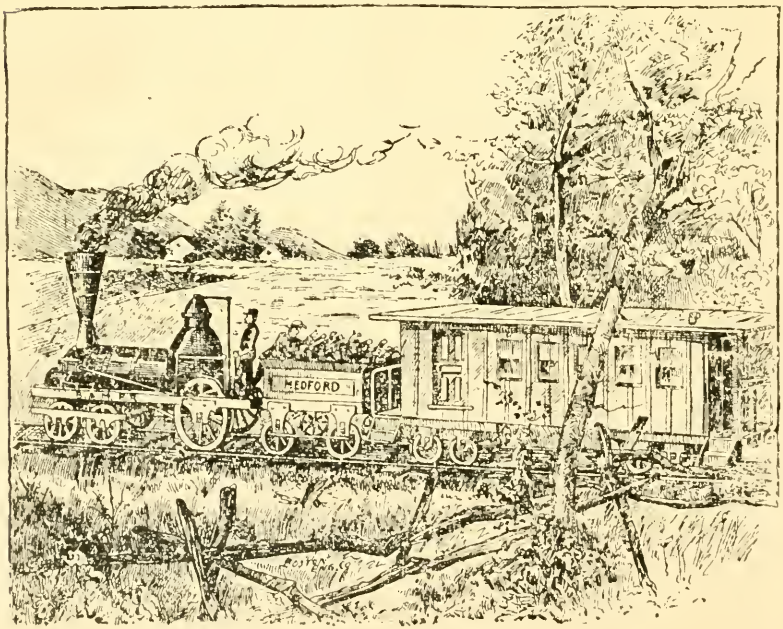
I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of _____ Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.



MEDFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S BUILDING.



AN EARLY MEDFORD BRANCH TRAIN.

The Medford Historical Register.

Vol. XX. APRIL, JULY, 1917. Nos. 2, 3.

THE MYSTIC WATER-WORKS.

THESE water-works are those built a half century ago by the (then) city of Charlestown for its own supply, and located mainly within, and traversing the entire length of, Medford. The Register has already described a portion and, as then intimated, now completes the story.

The Mystic lakes of today, with their surroundings, would have an unfamiliar look to Medford people of sixty years agone. There was then really but one, and that was known as Medford pond, though the "Narrows," or "Partings," did all nature could to make two of it.

The city of Charlestown, in its quest of a water supply, took it over, and then were begun, in 1862, the changes that resulted in the two lakes of the present time. At that time the shores of the pond were well wooded, and the white oaks there growing were utilized for the piles, that were driven fourteen feet and cut off level three feet below the surface of the ground. Upon these the masonry of the dam was built, while a double row of sheet piling was driven, within which the concrete core or backbone of the structure was filled, and back of this, the slope. Even the old Middlesex canal, discontinued ten years before, was laid under tribute, as the "puddle" of its old embankments near by, made up fifty years earlier, consisting of one-eighth clay mixed with sand and gravel, was used in this work. The granite for the overfall had been quarried at Chelmsford, as had been the stone for the canal's aqueducts. At this stage of the work labor troubles were evident, as one hundred and thirty men struck for twenty-five cents addition to the daily wage.

On June 2, 1863, Albert Whiting took charge of the masonry construction. His experience on the dry docks at Norfolk and Charlestown, and at Fort Independence, qualified him for this important work. On the tenth of June the northeast corner-stone of the dam was laid, but we find no record of any formal ceremony, other than the placing of a small vial containing the names of Charlestown's mayor, water commission, engineers and contractor in the lewis hole of the lower stone. In sealing the vial, a new cent of that year's coinage was embedded in the wax; not a heavy investment, rather an expression of old-time sentiment that still obtains at corner-stone layings. We hardly think any vandals will undertake to make away with *this* particular coin, as has been attempted in our own and neighboring cities.

The basal construction at this point was found difficult, as a centrifugal pump discharging four hundred and fifty gallons per minute failed to keep the excavation dry.

A year and a week elapsed ere the work was complete. The demand of the men in May, 1863, seems to have been acceded to, as we find that on April 9, 1864, another strike occurred, and that ten days later the men returned at the same wage as before, $1.50 per day. On May 2, 1864, their pay was raised to $1.65, and even this did not conciliate, for on June 1 another strike occurred. The laborers then got notice that the permanent men would get $1.66 and the transients $1.50 per day. The dam was finished on June 17, 1864, just eighty-nine years after Bunker hill day, and the pond began to fill. Water was not the only thing to rise, as we note that on July 1 the laborers' pay was increased to $1.80 per day, and no strike is mentioned. These were the days of the Civil War, when the high cost of living was equally apparent with present-day experience.

At 11.30 A.M., September 30, 1864, the stop planks were put permanently into the dam and the water allowed to rise to the required elevation. This changed the entire

shore line, shape and extent of the upper lake, and as the water backed into the tributary Aberjona, the mouth of that stream (sometimes called Symmes' river) became fixed at the bridge below the Bacon mills. There was a water privilege that was rendered useless by the construction of the Mystic dam. The proprietors of course claimed damage and made show of resistance, but one day a keg of powder placed under the old structure wrecked it, and although a steam engine was placed in the mill, no work of account was thereafter done, and the buildings were gradually removed. Incidentally we note that, owing to the scarcity of cotton, caused by the Civil War, a substitute therefor, made from flax, and called "flax cotton" or "fibrilla," was being made or experimented with and machinery installed for that purpose. And so closed the history and usefulness of this old mill privilege, first established on the grant to Rev. Zechariah Symmes by his son William as a fulling mill. During that last winter the writer worked in the old mill with his father, who was present and witnessed the destruction of the dam by explosion of powder. Perhaps, at the present writing, the only living witness of the somewhat dramatic scene is Mr. Griffin, the old retired gate-tender at West Medford, better known as Faithful Mike. (This digression may, as a matter of history, be added to page 395 of Brooks' History of Medford.)

Today, extending from the parkway, there may be seen in excellent preservation the embankments of the canal, and at their end, beneath the water, the lower courses of the aqueduct masonry, a reminder of the canal's prosperous days. These mark the channel of the Aberjona as it was prior to the raising of the lake, but elsewhere the course is now a matter of conjecture, unless, indeed, old maps or plans may be in evidence.

More or less litigation resulted from the flowage, but this was nothing new, as witness case of Symmes *vs.* Dunster, Broughton and Collins in 1656 [REGISTER, Vol. XIII, p. 12], when the Mystic was first dammed. While this

work was in progress some information relative to the lower lake was obtained, which we quote: —

An experiment was made by Engineer Buchanan to ascertain the depth at which the water in the lower pond becomes salt. A copper wire coated with silver was suspended from a float anchored in 54 feet of water. The wire was allowed to remain in the water 24 hours, and was found to be *very* slightly discolored from 18 or 19 to 21.57 feet below. At 21.57 the corrosion increased for 4 feet, then very rapidly disappeared leaving it bright copper. This agrees with the report of Mr. Baldwin which was at 19.4 below the surface of the pond.

By the recent building of the Cradock dam the level of the lower lake has been reduced (and consequently its area, slightly), and as the tides no longer come, the water is no longer salted.

That the work of building this dam, with its waste weir, conduits and gate-house was substantially performed is evident even to the casual observer. Though disused since 1897 it is well cared for, and the new lake thus created is kept at the normal height.

Just here we digress a little from our subject, to quote from Mr. Brooks' History of 1855: —

The lands on each side are slightly elevated, and in future times will doubtless be filled with country seats.

Today sees something of fulfilment of his prophecy. Writing over sixty years ago he did not foresee the electric light or railway on the farther side, nor yet the broad parkway on the other, or the swift automobiles almost momentarily traversing its course. The present limits of its Medford border are only within a few years invaded by dwellings, but the "Baconville" of which he wrote, the "Upper Medford" of his earlier days, now styled Wedgemere, since 1850 a part of Winchester, more than fulfils his forecast by the beautiful residences there erected. Not a few of these have their motor-boat house on the water's edge, and near the Aberjona a lighthouse adds to the attractive view.

Along the Arlington side the street cars pass, and the

many passengers obtain at Morningside an unobstructed view across the lake in either direction. Here tasteful residences crown the heights above, and the vine-clad garages of "You-Say," and the sun-parlors and modern pergolas, add to an attractive section of Mystic street. Even now the lower slopes are being opened for residence, and "Interlaken" may become filled with "country seats." Not such as had just been erected at the time of Mr. Brooks (where is the stone windmill tower) for during the years Arlington has slowly grown toward the lower lake, and even now there is building a pleasure road there with a bridge across the tributary stream, Sucker brook, that probably will receive a less prosaic name.

We have thus mentioned the storage basin and vicinity of the Charlestown water-works. In a previous article we have told of the conduit that connected it with the pumping station. This last was in Somerville and was a structure of brick, later twice enlarged. At its erection it contained two duplex pumping engines and requisite boilers. At its rear, in the hill-slope, the coal bunkers were built and a miniature railroad track passed through an underground passage to the boiler room. The brick chimney was monumental in shape and finished in graceful lines at the top. In recent years, after its disuse, a small tree grew in the curved cornice from seeds brought by bird, or wind borne, but this has disappeared. A spring of excellent cool water used to be near the chimney's base. The square base was twenty feet high, capped with stone, and into this was built the iron smoke flue leading from the boilers. The tapering shaft with its angular buttresses rose to the height of one hundred feet, and the whole was tasteful in design.

Nature's force of gravity brought the Mystic water to this station. From this an iron force-main extended up the hill slope to a point midway the northeasterly side of the distributing reservoir on the hill-top. In November, 1862, three hundred and fifty men were employed, many of them in excavating for this main. Just above

North street a ledge of soft rock was struck. Meanwhile the work was progressing on the reservoir, which had been begun two months before, as appears by the following: —

On September 25 the first ground was informally broken. About 2.30 P.M. a plough opened the first furrow on Walnut hill. This was purely informal, but Mr. Grant, the division engineer, by the desire of the few present, guided the plough. Afterwards the site of the reservoir was ploughed around three times that day. The ground for the water-works was formally broken on Saturday, September 27, at the site of the reservoir. At 3 P.M. the members of the City Government and invited guests came upon the grounds. Mr. Edward Lawrence, chairman of the Water Commissioners, prefaced his remarks by asking a prayer of Rev. Mr. Miles and after a few words introduced the Mayor of the City, who after a short speech, received a spade and placed a sod in a wheelbarrow. Mr. Lawrence then made a speech and placed another sod in the wheelbarrow, after which Mr. James McDonald the contractor wheeled the sods away and placed them on the site of the embankment. The President of Aldermen, Chairman of Common Council, Chief engineer, six ex-Mayors, and others were introduced and spoke, each placing a sod in the wheelbarrow at conclusion of remarks.

Nothing is said in this record of Mr. Buchanan's about the wheeling away of these numerous sods, but in another column is the testimony of an eye-witness.

Mr. Lawrence invited those present to his home, where a collation was served, thus ending the formal beginning of the work.

Mr. McDonald sublet the construction of the embankment and reservoir to Charles Linehan. Engineer Buchanan made an interesting record of the manner of its construction and of the difficulties encountered. Springs were encountered near the westerly corner and for many years fed a watering trough beside the road beyond the Somerville line. A record was made of this fact of their existence prior to the construction of the reservoir, but even this did not allay a feeling of insecurity, and for many years little building of houses was done on the nearer hill slope.

The approximate width of the reservoir is 350 feet, with a length of 563 feet, and the embankment 19.4 feet wide at the top with a slope of 1.5 feet in 1 ft. A sufficiency of material being at hand it was made higher than originally intended. The water level is 162 feet above Boston base-line, and is 27.25 feet deep (plumb height). The induction chamber is in the northeast side, and a division wall across divides the reservoir into two chambers with drain wells at the northerly corners. Thus provision was made for the effectiveness of the works in case of accident or for repair.

At the easterly corner is the gate-house, from which the conducting mains extend down the hill slope and on to Charlestown. The first was of cast-iron and later one of sheet-iron with cement lining was laid when Charlestown began to supply its neighboring municipalities.

We recall reading in the daily print in after years, of a laborer in some excavation beneath a certain schoolhouse, that had inadvertently been built above it, striking his pickaxe into this later main and of his surprise at the copious flow of water therefrom.

The artificial banks of the reservoir were stepped into interval spaces of from twenty to fifty feet, to avoid seepage, and inner slopes faced with rock and surmounted with a granite coping. The reservoir was completed in early November, 1864. At that time the neighboring buildings of Tufts college numbered but three. Beginning with the erection of West hall in 1871 their number has increased with the expansion of the college work, and gradually the hill slopes have been built upon until the suburban cities of Somerville and Medford have crowded closely upon the once distrusted earthwork that for a half century has proved its stability and faithful construction. From the promenade of over a third of a mile around its top a magnificent view of the surrounding country may be had and is well worth the time and effort of any one. It lies entirely within the bounds of Medford, though the angular line of the Somerville

boundary is very near, and within recent years closely built upon. We quote again from the record before alluded to: —

On November 5, 1864, the water had risen in the lake 3½ feet. On the same day the pumping engines were started slowly, at first pumping air only. A few leaks were discovered and the engines were stopped. On the 10th at 6.30 P.M. they were again started and water was first pumped into the northerly division of the reservoir.

On the 11th the concreting of the southerly division was completed, and on the 15th the last stone of the coping was laid. On the 14th the engines pumped steadily all day from 10.15 A.M. On the 17th water was let into the feed main to test it; on the 22nd into some of the distribution pipes, and on the 25th the Commissioner and some 40 invited guests inspected the works. On November 29 the celebration of the introduction of water took place, consisting of a long procession through some of the principal streets, exercises at Winthrop square that were closed by letting the water on the fountain, and subsequently by a grand dinner at the City Hall.

The writer well remembers his first visit to the pumping station in June, 1870, and the walk over the decaying aqueduct of the canal, that still spanned the river. It was the show place of the vicinity, and a record book was kept for the visitors to sign. The two duplex pumping engines, resplendent in their polished steel and brass, were encased in equally polished walnut, and one was steadily at work day and night. Mr. Born and Mr. Hines arrived from Brooklyn on July 18, 1864, to erect them, and the former remained as engineer during the entire use of the works. He showed us about the station and explained the working of the plant, which a few years later was enlarged to double its earlier capacity and size. Still later it was again enlarged by building an extension of the engine room and the installation of a rotary engine and pump, also an electric lighting plant. This latter was something unknown but a few years before, when the works were built. We little thought then of seeing the plant abandoned and, disused, fall into decay.

Upon its taking over by the Metropolitan Water Commission (the city of Charlestown having been previously

annexed to Boston) and the water supply having become polluted by the factory drainage of Woburn and Winchester, its use for domestic service was at once abandoned. For a time it was kept in commission for emergency, but this was not for long. The engine last installed was taken to the works at Spot pond and the newer boilers removed. The others remained for some time, and within a few years have gone to the junk dealers, as also the three duplex pumps that used to have extra duty on Monday, when Charlestown, like other places, had that as washing day. At least thus we were told, and we recall that one shrewd observer said, "Why did not Charlestown take Sandy pond up in Lincoln and get good water and enough of it by gravity, instead of this eternal pumping." But he did not forsee the end that came in time rather than in eternity.

Not all the extensive construction is now useless, however. The reservoir on the hill is connected with Spot pond (which was raised several feet higher) and the water flows downward through the force main to the gate-house in West Medford, where an iron main (laid beside the brick conduit to Sherman street) conveys the water to Arlington. There, a mile up the valley of Sucker brook, is a pumping station that supplies the water tower at the heights for the high service.

The Mystic dam remains intact; indeed, if it were removed it is questionable if such would be a wise procedure. It has been suggested that an additional elevation be made, and thus the improvement of the Aberjona.* The elevation proposed would raise the upper lake to 17.50 feet above Boston base, or fifteen inches higher than the tailrace of the next then existing water power on the Aberjona. The highest level the water commis-

* Mystic dam is	16.25
Flow of dam	6
Original level of Aberjona river	10.25
Feet above river	2
Symmes' meadow	12.25

Communication of A. E. Whitney.

sion could maintain is 16.25 feet, and is marked by a copper bolt in the Aberjona bridge. During more recent years that stream has been dredged and much improved by the town of Winchester, adding much to the attractiveness of the parkway. This was accomplished by the purchase of the ancient water privilege, and removal of all the factory buildings and dam. The elevation of the various ponds above is maintained by a new concrete dam of artistic design, while two fine bridges span the stream beside the parkway. These improvements have been effected without raising the Mystic dam or upper lake. A lock built at this dam would give access to motor boats as far as "Converse bridge" in the heart of Winchester. But it is doubtful if the Mystic supply is ever used again, certainly not until the picric acid and other deleterious matter from the chemical works, miles up stream, is eliminated. Mr. Brooks wrote of Medford pond: —

> This beautiful sheet of water, though cousin-german to the sea, is as quiet and retired as if it never received a visit from the Atlantic waters. . . . Every twelve hours it is raised from two to six inches by the inflowing tide.

This variation is, of course, now eliminated, and the lower pond or lake remains at its normal level, regulated by the tide-gates in the Cradock dam. There is yet room on both sides for the erection of the desirable dwellings that in the growth of Arlington and West Medford are coming, and to the occupants of which, years hence, the foregoing account may be of interest.

MOSES W. MANN.

ON OLD WALNUT-TREE HILL.

In the fall of 1862, as I was taking a stroll about the town, I happened to be on that part of College hill now the site of the reservoir at the time of the arrival of a party of gentlemen who climbed the hill and gathered themselves around a wheelbarrow that stood there with

a shovel laid across it. I saw at once that something unusual was in progress. I was informed of its nature when one of the party, after making a few remarks concerning the object in view, thrust the shovel into the earth and broke ground for the construction of the reservoir to be used as a part of the water-supply system to be constructed by the city of Charlestown. After depositing his shovel of earth upon the barrow he passed the shovel to his next neighbor and it passed from hand to hand until all but one had made their little speeches and deposited their shovels of earth upon the barrow. The last gentleman then came forward and as he took hold of the barrow to wheel away the load said, "The city of Charlestown has a big job on its hands in providing for a water supply, but our Uncle Samuel has a bigger one on his hands in putting down this rebellion and I am going to help him." He wheeled the barrow a short distance and dumped the load.

He went to the front and never returned — was killed in his first engagement.

JOHN H. HOOPER.

A MEDFORD TOWN MEETING.

There are yet some in Medford who can vividly recall town events of sixty years ago, but there are few who have written the story. Mr. Brooks' history had then been published but two years, and he was resident in the town of his boyhood. His was one of the earliest town histories, and despite some inaccuracies was one of the best. Up to 1857 no one had the courage to start a weekly paper in Medford by which current events might be chronicled, but on January 8 of that year there appeared the first of the *Medford Journal*, "a paper devoted to news, literature, science and art."

Mention has already been made of this in the REGISTER, with a review of its initial number. During its all too brief existence occurred the annual town meeting, commonly styled the "March meeting." This was held on

the ninth day of the month (Monday, of course), and the *Journal* appeared on Thursday. The editor said: —

> The business of the town was transacted with great unanimity and good feeling and despatched with great celerity, but with due regard to the important interests involved.

Thirty thousand dollars was to be raised by taxation, and twenty-five cents for each ratable poll appropriated for the support of the town library. The budget for that year was —

$5,000 for new schoolhouse, south side of river.
5,000 for road and bridge on South street.
8,000 for support of schools.
1,500 for support of poor and almshouse.
2,050 for fire department.
1,500 for salaries and fees.
2,000 for interest on town debt.
2,500 for highways, bridges and street lamps.
3,000 for miscellaneous and contingent expenses.
2,000 for outstanding and accruing demands.
325 for reservoir on Park street.

The balance in the treasury was $16,551.17, and the town debt $39,000.

There was then no town hall project on hand, but this town meeting was numerously attended, and the *Journal* editor gave the town clerk, Joseph Hall, credit for furnishing an "early and reliable report," and devoted two columns to remarks of his own relative to the proceedings.

Apparently the usual appropriations were readily made, and that for the new schoolhouse (still in service and known as the Cradock) only amended that it be built by a "mechanic resident in town." The growth of the South and Summer street section is indicated by the erection of this schoolhouse, as also by the "projected bridge to Somerville." This was the Winthrop bridge at the elbow of South street, and was "strongly opposed" by one speaker, but too late, as the same had already been contracted for. South street in those days was but sparsely settled between the river and Somerville, which latter was the western slope of Walnut hill, then begin-

ning to be called College hill. In recent years that portion of South street has become Winthrop street.

Indefinite postponement of action upon the "road from Medford to Edgeworth" (*i.e.*, Myrtle street) was averted by the taking up of another warrant article, and after an acrimonious discussion this road was deemed a public necessity and "carried with enthusiasm."

The town, by unanimous vote, increased the salaries of its clerk and treasurer to $200 and $150 respectively. The same citizen who had so vigorously opposed these roads and bridges also "made an ineffectual attempt to disallow the compensation heretofore allowed the School Committee."

Rev. Mr. Brooks sent a communication, which is thus noted: —

> Resolved that the bridge on Main street be called the Cradock Bridge, and that the new bridge running from South street to High street be called Winthrop Bridge, in honor of early settlers. Carried.

A motion was carried to call the new bridge at West Medford the Usher bridge. This latter is that connecting Harvard avenue with River street in Arlington, then West Cambridge. We only wish that Editor Morgan had stated whether this action was in honor of an early settler and owner of the Royall house (Lieutenant-Governor Usher) or the more recently well-known citizen who was doubtless present at town meeting.

The next article was of special interest, for after several ballots, by a vote of 52 to 38, "the selectmen were instructed to enforce the law imposing a tax on dogs."

The selectmen were also directed to dispose of the old schoolhouse lot near the residence of Rev. Charles Brooks. This was up Woburn street (opposite where is now the Sarah Fuller home), and had been purchased when the first West Medford schoolhouse was built in 1829 (see REGISTER, Vol. VIII, p. 75). An amendment was suggested "that it be used for a pound." The account says "it was by the same gentleman who had dissented from or opposed several earlier matters," and that

"he sat down amid considerable laughter without completing his remarks. Mr. H.'s course generally excited considerable amusement, especially to the youthful portion of the audience, but which tended to alleviate the business of some of its dullness."

The motion that the school vacations be abridged to four weeks in each year shared the fate of previous ones after remarks by Schoolmaster Hathaway and others relative to "cramming children at our public schools."

At the time of this town meeting the town hall was in the glory of its renewed youth, having survived the damaging effect of two fires, and renewed and refitted for public service. A school of citizenship for the Medford boys was the old town meeting, and some of them learned well its lessons, in that old town hall, that contrast greatly and compare more than favorably with what is learned by the average youth of today. The New England town meeting, of which this Medford one of sixty years ago is a fair exponent, is both a school in, and example of, democracy that should not be hastily discarded for a delegated city government. It is a question in the minds of many today whether or not Medford people, with all the boasted progress of sixty years, are as well circumstanced or as happily situated as in those days "before the war."

"THE LITTLE REPUBLIC."

Sixty years ago a little book of two hundred and twenty-eight pages was published by a lady who soon after became, and for some years was, a resident of Medford, the preceptress of the famous Mystic Hall Seminary, Mrs. Eliza T. P. Smith. In her preface she says: —

> Most of the articles in this little volume were kindly contributed by the respective writers expressly for this purpose, and these writers include some of the most distinguished in the land. . . . The editor has interspersed some trifles of her own, which she hopes may be leniently regarded. The volume is intended as an agreeable and instructive Miscellany, for presentation, free from

all sectarian prejudices, and such an one as may contribute to the moral and intellectual progress of Young America.

The title of the book is "The Little Republic — Original Articles by Various Hands," edited by Mrs. T. P. Smith, from the press of Wiley & Putnam, New York, and is dedicated, on a special page, to her father. The initial article is an ode of one hundred and twenty lines, entitled "Justice," by John Quincy Adams, former President of the United States. Mrs. Sigourney, Ex-Governor Briggs, Bayard Taylor, Elihu Burritt, and eminent clergymen (including Dr. S. F. Smith, author of "America"), are among the twenty-one contributors. The "trifles" mentioned number thirteen, the first being fifteen pages of prose on Self-Culture, and the last in verse, as follows:—

MY FATHER.

By Eliza T. P. Smith.

And I am conscious of affecting thoughts,
And dear remembrances, whose presence soothes
And elevates the mind.

Wordsworth.

My father! What remembrance dear
Arises when that name I hear.
Memory's voice brings back to me
Childhood's moments full of glee,
All its gambols, all its plays,
All my father's kindly ways.
Ah! it brings to me again
Days of weariness or pain,
When soft cradled in his arms,
Gentle songs soothed all alarms.
Those years, alas! how quickly flown —
Those years, with love and blessings strewn.

Memory's voice it wakes again —
That parental, tender strain;
Love and precept, line on line
Did my father's word combine —
Yes, it was his lavish hand
Ever placed at my command
All that could adorn and bless,
Knowledge, truth and happiness.
Those halcyon days have passed away —
But his counsels with me stay.

My father! yes I see him now,
With generous hand and sunny brow,
Making happy those around —
Soothing grief wherever found,
And though now my father's hair
Whitened is by age and care,
By his counsels I abide,
In his love I still confide,
O God, his life long to me spare,
And let me still his goodness share.

Another "trifle" was her "Echo Song," with introductory note —

On the shores of the Adriatic the women come down to the shore at nightfall and sing, then listen for a response from their husbands and friends on the water, that they may be guided home by the sound of their voice.

Her verses beginning

The curfew tells the closing day,
The last sun-rays have left the bay
And the shore;

imitate the women's song, the men's echo and the chorus, and are preceded by the music "Soft and slow, adapted by S. Hill," in which occurs twice *pp.* Echo.

The book is finely gotten up (in the style of its time) in red embossed cover, the central feature of each being a wreath-encircled lyre imposed upon a scroll, pen, and sprays of flowers, the front figures in gold. Each page is bordered with wavy ruled lines, and each of the articles begins with ornamental capitals and have head and tail pieces of intricate geometrical design. The author and editor was the daughter of Ebenezer Smith, and became the wife of Thomas P. Smith, who in 1852 erected the Mystic Hall building at West Medford, and whose death soon after was a loss to Medford.* For her educative work in Medford, the reader is referred to REGISTER, Vol. XI, p. 49. In "Literary Medford," REGISTER, Vol. XV, p. 4, is a mention of the seminary and studies,

* Mr. Smith contributed two articles, one "A Word to Mothers," to the book.

but the name of its preceptress does not there appear, nor direct mention of her as an author, nor is this book under consideration in Medford's Public Library, which has a special case for Medford authors. Well worthy of perusal in the present days, it is a recent accession to the library of the Medford Historical Society.

MEDFORD BRANCH RAILROAD.

Three years since, in Vol. XVII, p. 34, the REGISTER gave an account of the "Branch," quoting from various authentic sources, and venturing a prophecy which now seems likely of fulfilment.

With the impending possibility of discontinuance of passenger service, interest in the road is aroused, and it is difficult to answer all queries or to obtain *correct* information relative to its earlier days. The earliest of Medford's histories deals with it but briefly, only fourteen lines, but gives a view of the terminal station on Main street that is of interest. Thirty years later Usher's history devoted two pages to the subject. Of this but fourteen lines, mostly a reproduction of the former, are textual, the remainder being the report of James Hayward (who surveyed the route) and his *estimated* cost of the proposed work.

Both these histories give the names of the corporators and the date of the charter (March 7, 1845), and here all printed and published allusion to the Medford Branch Railroad *corporation* ceases, *i.e.*, so far as we have been able to ascertain.

In "Medford Past and Present" (Medford Publishing Co., 1905), Mortimer E. Wilber mentions the "Branch," quotes from Usher and gives the names of the (then) station agents, with date of appointment and their four likenesses in group. In the "Brief History of the Town and City" Mr. Hooper devotes but three lines to the Branch and two to the Boston and Lowell. In his letter prefacing the history he says, "The limited space allowed

has excluded much of interest," and this is certainly true. These are the sources to which we naturally look for information, with results as stated.

The facts are, the "Medford Branch Rail-Road Company" had but a brief existence, while the Branch railroad has been in public service over seventy years. The original corporators (as they were privileged by the charter to do) disposed of their charter and franchise to the Boston and Maine. We have before us a printed copy of the latter's petition to the county commissioners of Middlesex, which sets forth that fact, and also that it had undertaken to construct the "Branch," had filed location thereof according to law, and was desirous to proceed with construction forthwith. Then follow the names of the property owners along the line with whom question of land damage was unsettled, beginning with Luther Angier at Main street and ending with William Bradbury at the other end. The petition was signed by the president of the Boston and Maine, Thomas West.

On the first Tuesday in June, 1846, at their meeting at Concord, the commissioners ordered the petitioners to give notice to all these interested persons and corporations of its meeting for a view, and a hearing at the Medford Hotel on "10th of August next, at ten of the clock in the forenoon, by serving each of the land owners named with a copy of this petition and order thereon, fourteen days before said view," etc.

The copy mentioned is endorsed as to Mrs. Eliza Perkins and is attested by the signature of "John T. White, Constable of Medford." In all there were forty or more. The only *corporation* we notice is the First Baptist Society in Malden.

We must accept this as "documentary evidence" that the Medford Branch Rail-Road *Company* had but brief existence, and that the Branch *railroad* was built by the Boston and Maine and always has been a part of its system. And now arises the query, Just when was it built and when did it begin operation of passenger service?

In the reports of railroads to the state, that of 1846, the Boston and Maine reports "$9\frac{65}{1000}$ miles of branch road of single track." Of this the Medford Branch is a little less than two miles (9,800 feet) according to Hayward's survey, and is probably included in this report. We base this conclusion upon the statements of the foregoing petition and the date of commissioners' view of location, as compared with the time of running the first trains. Who knows when that "eleven-ton engine, built at Lowell," with two cars first traversed the branch? Inquiry among the oldest residents of Medford has so far been unavailing. The "documentary evidence" available is this: up to and including March 1, 1847, the Boston and Maine Railroad advertisement in the *Boston Advertiser* announces *no* train service to Medford. In the issue of March 2 appears

Medford to Boston	6½ & 8 A.M.	1¾ & 5½ P.M.
Boston to Medford	7¼ & 9 ,,	2½ & 5.50 ,,

The above we consider as conclusive evidence that the Medford Branch began operation on that day, and was obtained from the file of the *Boston Advertiser*. We found no mention of it in the news columns, though we did notice that on the Fitchburg railroad at Cambridge, on the previous day, the snow-ploughs were derailed and engines sent out from Boston to clear the track — a sidelight on the weather conditions of the time.

Of the cost of building the Medford Branch, and whether it tallied with Mr. Hayward's estimate, we have no means of knowing. The reports to the State are complete, and answer the law's requirements, but are for the entire system, and other than tabulated matter are very brief and deal mainly with the accidents that occurred.

We have seen in print the statement that its cost was $38,208.60. This tallies with "Medford Past and Present," which in turn agrees with the total *estimate* given by Surveyor Hayward and quoted in detail by Usher

(see p. 73). Mr. Hayward's report consists first of an estimate of cost, *not including* "land or damage to real estate," $25,082.50. At this point comes a matter of interest that is now forgotten, as neither history alludes to it. It was proposed to build the road on the *south* side of the river, and just here is a lesson in local geography with a touch of local history also, with a little of engineering thrown in. Fifty years before, this last had been shown in the survey and construction of the Middlesex canal along the Mystic marshes of Charlestown and Medford, but for the last ten of the fifty the competition of the Boston and Lowell Railroad had been disastrous to the water-way. The charter of the latter railroad allowed no other railroad into Lowell for forty years, but there was no hindrance toward Boston. The canal embankments could be used as a road-bed for the Medford Branch, and the cut through the ledgy shoulder of Winter hill in the corner of Medford and Charlestown was already made. The canal was but little used, and a proposition to discontinue it as a water-way, and by the laying of iron pipes along the ten miles of the southern end to Woburn utilize it as a water supply for Boston, had just been made. Mr. Hayward said: —

> To the expense of building the branch, I have added that of building a second track on the Maine Extension Road,* from the proposed junction with that road to the Middlesex canal, where the route proposed on the south side of the river would meet the Extension road. This I do, that we may have all the data for comparing the two routes proposed.

This expense (in five items) amounted to $9,652.60, and, added to the estimate already given, total $34,735.10, to which ten per cent. ($3,473.50) was added for engineer, contingencies, etc., making $38,208.60. As yet we have not ascertained the actual cost of the branch, as only the accounts of the Boston and Maine can give proof.

By this it appears that the recent "Interurban" project and even the defunct Mystic valley were not the first to

* The railroad from Wilmington to Boston was then so styled.

consider a way paralleling the Medford turnpike. Mr. Hayward placed his report before "Messrs. Bishop, Lawrence and others," the corporators of the railroad (Mr. Usher says a committee of citizens employed him), closing thus —

The distance to Boston by the northern route is thirty-two hundred feet greater than that by the southern route; and the southern branch will be forty-two hundred feet longer than the northern.

They decided for the shorter *branch*, all within the bounds of Medford, but the longer distance to Boston.

It was twenty years before the Wellington district began to increase materially in growth. To be sure, some ten years later, Editor Moody of the original *Medford Journal* suggested "a suspension bridge to the highlands of Somerville," but he was ahead of the times. Not until Middlesex avenue was opened, with its bridge across the Mystic, had that peninsular district a direct outlet to Boston, and even then its growth was slow.

In the second year of service, April 28, 1848, there were three accidents reported: —

April 28 James Gregg, having laid down between the rails on a curve near Medford, was run over by an engine and killed instantly.

May 5 Samuel Baldwin, in getting out of the cars at Medford after they had started, was struck by the baggage car and his arm was broken.

November 4 James Pratt, Medford, legs broken by collision at Medford Junction.

In 1853 Enos Ormsbee and Silas Bumpus of Charlestown, carpenters, walking on the track to Medford, were instantly killed by the 7¾ A.M. northern train, the So. Reading train passing at the same time. [This must have been below the junction and not on the branch.]

And another, in which the Medford Branch figures: —

June 28, 1854, L. G. Brown killed at Causeway street [Boston]. He was driving with two others when his horse became unmanageable and dashed open the gate. Brown was struck by outward Medford train.

Doubtless there are those that remember that for some years locomotives were not allowed to cross Causeway and Traverse streets in Boston, and that the trains were

hauled by horses to the locomotives waiting just below Causeway street and also inwardly.

Another report throws a little light on the manner of operating the branch: —

January 3, 1854, Saugus and Medford train coming in at 2.20 P.M., Baggage Master Caleb Eames, Jr., of Saugus, killed near freight house owing to misplaced switch.

This record indicates that some Medford Branch trains were attached to other inward trains at Medford Junction and the combined train taken over the Main line to Boston by one engine. A similar arrangement obtained on other roads. Such would have left the Medford engine free to return with cars brought to the junction by another outward train, and better accommodated the time schedule.

Report of another accident was nearer home: —

September 4, 1857, Mrs. Dexter Loud of Abington was fatally injured at Park street station. It was not known whether she stepped from the car on to the track; her dress caught on the step of the engine and she was dragged under the wheels.

Doubtless further search of reports would reveal further accidents and fatalities, and we have only quoted those on the branch or in some way related thereto.

This branch railroad certainly was of great service to Medford in its earlier years, and had its first competitor in passenger service in the Medford and Charlestown Horse Railroad in 1860. This continued until 1873, but it is questionable if the long haul over Winter hill was very attractive to Medford people, other than the few who dwelt along its line, and even its operation attracted few new residents. This road was taken over by the Middlesex corporation and, after 1873, eleven years discontinued. Reopened in 1884, extended to West Medford and Malden, and soon after operated by electricity, it became a powerful competitor. Taking its patrons at their very doors and landing them at their places of business is an advantage the steam railway with its fixed terminals cannot offer, even were it electrified. So the problem remains.

Of the engineer's estimate for depot buildings, the larger part went into the terminal station on Main street. Printed views show it in its various appearances to date, and incidentally some other changes near the square.

Near the other end of the branch one resident still remains that witnessed the building and opening of the branch — the oldest man in Medford, J. Everett Wellington. His name does not appear in the petition referred to, as his family *gave* the strip of land the railroad required. It crossed their orchard, and he tells us that on the Fourth of July, 1846, "we dug up and replanted ten sizable apple trees. Apples were already formed on them, but all the trees lived and bore fruit that year." Of the many trees in that orchard, over which numerous houses have been built, a few still remain, but have suffered for want of care in these later years. One of the conditions of land grant was that all Medford Branch trains should stop there. At first there was no station house, a signal was shown. After a while a little "shack" was provided for shelter, and later a station house erected.

We had a pleasant interview with him recently, sitting on the lawn and looking over the village grown up around his home. A whole history might and should be written of this corner of Medford called by his name and practically bounded landward by the Medford Branch Railroad.

CREDITABLE TO MEDFORD.

On Patriots Day, fortunately aided in weather conditions, a modern Paul Revere rode over the historic route to Lexington as a part of Boston's patriotic observance of the day. For convenience' sake this ride was at midday instead of midnight, as was the original.

Invitations having been extended to the four cities and towns to co-operate, a committee therefor was appointed by Medford's mayor. His selection was Alderman Dowell of the city government, Superintendent Nickerson of the School Department, Comrade Oscar Allen of the Grand

Army, President Curtin of the Board of Trade, and the President of the Historical Society as chairman. This committee met with that of Boston, and later arranged a simple but effective program for the Medford portion, and to Comrade Allen, over eighty years young, and Superintendent Nickerson, who mustered his numerous forces, its success is mainly due.

James H. Phelan of the Boston Committee personated Revere and started from the patriot's house in Boston, instead of from "Charlestown shore," and at the top of Winter hill stopped for a brief time. There the Somerville exercises took place, in which former President Taft had a part. The rider was timed to come "over the bridge into Medford town" at 11.30 A.M. "by the village clock," and just as he galloped over, a bugler in the square gave sound of warning to the assembled crowd, which was in the thousands. His continental dress was in marked contrast to everything worn today, whether the modern khaki, Grand Army of the Republic uniform, school uniform or civilian dress, and was very noticeable.

High street was packed solid on either side, but the way was kept open by a squad of Medford's police. A detachment of cavalry attended him, and as he turned the corner into High street there arose a mighty shout and the singing of America. The Boy Scouts were out in troops from all over the city; the High School Battalion and a detachment of the Light Guard occupied places assigned them. The central point of interest was, of course, the Capt. Isaac Hall house, where, on either side of the flag-draped entrance, were assembled the veterans of 1861–65—the Grand Army men, the Women's Relief Corps and the other affiliated organizations, all bearing their respective colors. Massed on the opposite sidewalk, fully a thousand of them, were the school children, in charge of their teachers. Badges of red, white and blue, and flags everywhere were in evidence.

Arriving at the house, "Revere" was welcomed by His Honor the Mayor and the members of committee,

and invited to enter for refreshment. The present resident, Edward Gaffey, deemed it an honor to open the historic mansion for the occasion and dispense the hospitality Captain Hall had no time for so long ago. During this interval Arthur Joyce of the high school, standing on the door-steps, recited in a clear and carrying voice Longfellow's well-known poem; Mayor Haines, standing on the car-track, spoke of the lessons of the day, citing various historic events and incidents of American patriotism, and expressing the firm belief that America will not fail in the present crisis and in coming days. As the mayor ceased speaking Cornetist Milton Rich and Sub-master Gilkey led in the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner," and the modern Revere mounted his horse and with his attendants started for Lexington. His Honor and the committee soon followed in the city automobile, the city messenger bearing the mace and the street commissioner at the steering wheel.

At Arlington a similar scene was enacted. That the event was a success goes without saying, nevertheless we quote from the Boston committee's letter, as written by its secretary: —

> The Boston Committee were much impressed with the excellent manner in which the Medford arrangements were carried out. It seems to be the unanimous opinion of all those who followed the entire day's celebration through all cities and towns, that in Medford there was less confusion and better results than in any other place. The police seemed to have an intelligent conception of how to handle the situation. The exercises at the Capt. Hall house were carried out in a manner to indicate good foresight and equally good execution. The whole impression was, as I have stated, very complimentary to Mayor Haines, to Medford, to you and to your Committee.

The moving picture men were on hand along the entire route, and on a subsequent date the Medford committee witnessed the results of their work shown in Boston. The thought has been expressed, and very likely will take form, of something even better on another Patriots Day.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY REACHES MAJORITY IN ITS NEW HOME.

It was fitting that the Society's hearthstone should figure in the exercises of the April meeting just prior to Patriots Day. It is current history that troops of boys known as Scouts, and their sisters, the Camp Fire Girls, are taking up beautiful and instructive lessons in patriotism, loyalty and usefulness, that has a hopeful indication and outlook. Three of these camps, Sagamore, Mystic and Nahanadah, united under their guardians, Mesdames Kenny, Proctor and Snell, as the Sag-my-nah Council, were the guests of the evening.

Their entrance of the hall, their costumes and ceremonies, their salute to the flag and pledge of loyalty were of great interest. Surrounding the broad hearthstone they lit the Society's initial fire, that some members had been anxious before to do. We will quote here from Mrs. Fuller in the *Medford Messenger*: —

> In accordance with the usual custom at all meetings of the Camp Fire Girls, the central symbol of the society was then demonstrated by kindling a fire by the Indian method of the rubbing stick. For the first time the flames of a matchless fire rolled brightly up the new fireplace, as the girls, seated on the floor in a semi-circle, chanted an ode to the Great Spirit, followed by the singing of "Burn, Fire, Burn," "Mammy Moon," and "Wo-he-lo," the latter portraying the keyword of the organization, "Work, health, love."

The President introduced the speaker of the evening, Rev. Anson Titus of Somerville, who spoke on "Present-Day Patriotism," contrasting the fires on the hill-tops and lanterns in the church tower, with the wireless and cable of today, and closing with —

> These are great days in which to dedicate ourselves. The noble utterances of the President of the United States should grip and grasp every fibre of our being. A greater day is coming.

On May 21st the Historical Society held its regular meeting, the last of the season of 1916–17.

Its charter bears date of May 22, 1896, and the names of nine persons are therein written. Of these, seven are

still living and six were present at this meeting, which, considering proximity of date, took the form of an anniversary occasion, as in fact the Society has rounded out its minority years and is now of age.

Additional interest attached to the occasion as the exterior of the new home at 10 Governors avenue is now practically complete. Within a few days the scaffolding about it has been removed and the Society seal worked in the concrete is plainly in evidence thereon. None need ask the purpose or use of the structure, as "he who runs may read."

The seal of the Society consists of a shield and crest within a circle, on the border of which is the legend "Medford Historical Society." On the upper half of the shield is a sheaf of wheat, that being part of the arms of the Royall family. On the lower half is the seal of Medford — a ship on the stocks. The crest, a muzzled bear, is the crest of the Cradock family. In the exergue appears the motto, "Venerate the Historic."

Members began early to gather and to inspect the new home, which though not complete entirely as to its interior finishings, yet has a homelike look. The greetings and congratulations delayed the opening but five minutes past the hour, when the President rapped for order and welcomed the assembled members and friends, congratulating all upon the success of the former years.

A highly interesting record of the April meeting was read by the Secretary and duly approved. After some minor details, the various speakers were introduced. The first to respond was Charles H. Loomis, one of the corporators of the Society and its first Treasurer, who said his "would be in lighter vein," and read the following verses:—

WE 'RE TWENTY-ONE.

Eighteen hundred ninety-six,
A year we find not hard to fix,
The M. H. S. that year begun,
So now, of course, we 're twenty-one.

Well we recall those early days,
Their memories bright cast pleasing rays,
We bask in them as in the sun,
We're glad because we're twenty-one.

Our leaders pass us in review,
They're very choice because they're few.
We really do not need to state
The very first one gave us Wait.

We gathered headway in his term,
Of active work we much did learn.
"Banks of the Mystic" gave us zest
To Hooper up when Wait chose rest.

And here we lay a memory flower,
For one who labored every hour;
Whose faithful interest would not down,
We speak with love, the name of Brown.

And then a whirling Eddy came,
He gave to us "Parada" fame.
'Twas in his brain that we were born,
And much good work by him was done.

In Medford's anniversary year
Of nineteen five, it doth appear
That Eddy's *views*, if you will look,
And Hooper's *history*, make a book.

The M. H. S. bore well its part,
Historic knowledge to impart,
Upon its chosen work intent.
Then later Scott was President.

How could events more fitting come,
That when our years are twenty-one,
Our list of officers we scan,
And find for President a Mann.

A Mann in name, a man for work,
A man who never learned to shirk.
Whose tireless work today we praise,
While grateful thanks to him we raise.

These corporate members' names were filed
DeLong, and Wait, and Dame and Wild,
Sargent, Loomis, Joyce and Gill,
And Eddy, will the number fill.

The passing years their changes bring,
And some have gone, their memories cling.
'Tis but a step from earth to heaven,
Tonight we write our number seven.

And for all those who from our ranks,
Are resting on those farther banks,
We weave tonight in memory's net
Forget-me-nots and mignonette.

The past has many pictures fair,
They crowd upon us everywhere,
Stamped on the tablets of the heart,
Of life itself they form a part.

Do you recall our old red home,
Its open fire which bade us "Come,"
Those Saturday nights of friendly chat,
The chafing dish, and all of that?

And genial spirits who beguiled
The passing hour with stories wild,
And tales of travel, wit and joke
Quite often wreathed in fragrant smoke?

Hail to the friends of every year!
Their names unspoken bring us cheer.
Did space permit the roll we'd call.
Our greetings go to one and all.

And you, my comrades of today,
As birthday greetings here we pay,
Let every daughter, every son
Rejoice because we're twenty-one.

C. H. L.

It is needless to say the above were heartily applauded.

Will C. Eddy, now of Auburndale, a corporator and former President, and who first formulated the idea of an historical society in Medford, told of the earliest efforts, the developments of the work — incidents and occurrences, and paid tribute to the workers of the earlier days and the memory of those passed on.

As announced, the principal speaker of the evening was the Hon. William Cushing Wait, the first President

of the Society, his subject being, "What We Have Done for Medford in Twenty-one Years." Judge Wait told of the various lines of work and how the efforts of members had resulted in the clearing of some formerly accepted myths, by careful search and authentic record; of the writing of new and more accurate history and publication of the same; of the making of maps to illustrate the papers written by painstaking members; of the interest taken in the historic festival called "On the Banks of the Mystic," and its financial success; of the marking of historic sites and the initial work resulting in the city's observance of its two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, and the later publication of the "Proceedings" by a committee composed entirely of members of the Society, as was also the historian whose careful work is therein embodied; of the genealogical work, the acquisition of a library and collection with the later purchase of the old home at 2 Ashland street and finally the erection of the present structure. The address was interspersed with numerous incidents and references to interested workers, among them a worthy tribute to President Brown, whose enthusiastic work made possible many things. Listened to with the utmost interest and greatly appreciated and applauded in its close, was this address.

Because of another engagement which took him away, His Honor the Mayor could speak but briefly, but in encouraging and appreciative words.

Miss Helen Tilden Wild, one of the first Vice-presidents and former Editor of the HISTORICAL REGISTER, told of the Society's work in the gathering up and publication of Medford history and annals. This is now over two thousand pages, as the REGISTER is in its twentieth volume. She especially noted the amount of information to be found in the brief articles the Editors use for "filling," and how worthy of preservation. She also alluded to the work of her successors and did not forget "the man behind the gun," *i.e.*, the printer. At this point several members expressed their appreciation

of the REGISTER and made valuable suggestions. The present Editor told of his experience of the printer's helpfulness and also of the appreciative words of the editor of a great weekly, who styled the REGISTER submitted to him as "superb."

The chair then asked for the Society's appreciation of the printer's work, but found the vote was not wholly unanimous, as one man had not risen. Asking him to rise he was introduced as "the printer," J. C. Miller, Jr. Mr. Miller responded that he came to enjoy the occasion but found he was unexpectedly hearing good things about himself. He was gratified that the Society was satisfied with the appearance of the REGISTER, for he had tried to do good work on it. Everybody knows he has succeeded.

At this juncture Judge Wait wanted the floor again. This accorded him, he wished to add, "That the Society's existence and work had set forces in motion for the preservation of the Royall house." At the risk of contempt, the President regretted his recognition of His Honor, as he was about to speak of the same and to introduce Dr. Charles M. Green, president of the Royall House Association. This was then done and Dr. Green responded in felicitous remarks, alluding to the work of both organizations as important to our old city. Dr. Green is the author of the able paper, "Early Physicians of Medford," and also substantially interested in the new home of this Society.

Attention was called to the portraits of the late Miss Zipporah Sawyer and her brother, Rufus Sawyer, recently come into possession of the Society according to her wish. A letter from the attorneys of her estate was read by Judge Wait, presenting to the Society a bill of 1794 in the handwriting of Paul Revere of "One Silver Cann £8.3:2" to one —— Whitman. This was Dr. Whitman of Bolton, Mass., with whom Miss Sawyer's father studied medicine and of whom he received his certificate as Doctor of Medicine and Surgery. Evidently Dr. Sawyer

recognized the interest that in after years would be taken in the autographs of the patriot Revere. The old paper, yellow with age, will be preserved in the Society's archives. Another item of interest was several old coal bills of "Pyam Cushing, Entrance to wharf on Ship street, near the Town Pump," to Mr. Sawyer. One reads

1867, July 29.	
5 tons Furnace $8\frac{1}{2}$	$42.50
putting in	1.50

After fifty years coal is the same price; but the town pump is no more.

During the two hours' session there was not a dull minute, and after adjournment the members and friends spent a half hour in inspection of the new home.

ANOTHER MEDFORD AUTHOR.

"Life on the Nile, and Excursions on Shore Between Cairo and Asouan, also A Tour in Syria and Palestine in 1866–67," is the title of a little book in our public library that was printed for private distribution. On a fly-leaf the following is written in ink: "To the Medford Public Library from Wm. Wilkins Warren, Boston, July, 1875." As the title is self explanatory, we leave the disclosure of its contents to the investigation of our readers, but of the writer we may with fitness speak briefly, as his work gives him a place in that department of our public library devoted to Medford authors. This term is used broadly, and includes their writings published before and after as well as while residing here.

Mr. Warren's New England origin is shown by his ordering in Marseilles, when procuring supplies for the Nile journey, such goods as "potted oysters, tomatoes, salmon, mincemeat for pies, all put up in America." Thus did this traveler of fifty years ago foreshadow the slogan of today. For the benefit of American tourists he gave the name of the only ship supply establishment where these goods could be purchased.

His parents were Isaac and Frances (Wilkins) Warren. The father was born in Arlington (old Menotomy), April 22, 1787, and the son in the same town, then West Cambridge, April 11, 1814. About 1820 the father went to New York and William was sent to the grandparents, who then lived on High street, in West Medford, where is now the street that was named for this family. He and two sisters were baptized in the First Parish meeting-house, June 18, 1820. He lived here about eight years, then went to work in a printing office in Boston.

He married at Billerica, Mass., Rebecca Bennett of that town, October 17, 1837. At that time he was living in West Cambridge, or was registered there. In 1830 he engaged in the West India trade, living in St. Thomas (one of the Danish islands recently acquired by the United States) until 1840, when he, with his wife, returned to their native land and resided in Boston.

Mr. Warren was successful in business and retired therefrom early. Both he and his wife possessed ample means and traveled extensively. He was of a genial disposition and drew around him a large circle of friends. He was philanthropic and his interests were far-reaching. He was a director in many organizations, and after his death his wife continued the benefactions and was a generous patron of many of Boston's well-known institutions.

They celebrated their golden wedding in a manner appropriate to their position and wealth at Hotel Bristol, Boston, October 17, 1887. The invitations bore the words, "No gifts desired"; the pleasure of friends meeting friends only was desired and was realized.

Among the guests were the following, with their wives, Ex-Gov. Alexander H. Rice, Hon. Thomas N. Hart, Chester Guild, Rev. E. A. Horton, Rev. M. J. Savage, Moses Kimball; the Misses Kimball; Rev. James Reed, and J. M. Rodocanachi, the Greek consul.

Poems written for the occasion by Rev. E. A. Horton, Rev. M. J. Savage, and Elijah B. Smith of West Medford were read. These, and others not read for want of

time, were printed in a beautiful souvenir volume containing an account of the occasion, with the names of the guests, fifty copies of which were printed for private distribution.

The fellow voyagers of twenty years before were there and a more remarkable fact was that the bridesmaid and groomsman of 1837 were present; the former, Mrs. Sarah W. Hart, a sister of Mr. Warren; the latter, Elijah B. Smith.

A valued keepsake in a Medford family is one of these little books, inscribed on a fly-leaf, "The Bride and Groom, 1837, To Mr. Elijah B. Smith, Xmas, 1887."

Mr. Warren died in Boston, January 23, 1890. A pamphlet published after his death testified to the esteem in which he was held. Words written by officers of churches, savings banks, the Washingtonian Home, Bostonian Society, directors of the public library of Billerica, corporation of the South End Industrial School, and others, formed a fine testimonial and gave proof of good stewardship.

Mrs. Warren died at Hotel Bristol, where she had lived for thirty-seven years, July 31, 1916, at the age of ninety-seven.

ELIZA M. GILL.

POEM.

By Elijah B. Smith.

Fifty years have rolled on, as the records will say,
This month of October, this seventeenth day;
And well is remembered a long morning ride
In the "Old One Horse Shay," with no one beside,
Well wrapped in a cloak, then the garment in vogue,
That covered the faults of the saint or the rogue.
A wish or a summons had come from a friend,
That duty and pleasure induced to attend;
As once was the custom in old Galilee,
A wedding that day we were destined to see.
The bride and the bridegroom, both youthful and fair,
Were pledged to each other life's duties to share.
The guests were assembled, the service was done,
And two were pronounced to be merged into one.

The bride cake was broken; the marriage feast o'er,
The pair left their home for a tropical shore.
Successful and crowned with the blessings of health,
Time brought to their coffers the comfort of wealth.
No longer required were the labors for gain;
They thought of New England and homeward they came.
What since has befallen, no need to portray;
Respected and honored we know them today.
Though touched it may be by the finger of Time,
The spring-time within them is still at its prime.
The knot that was tied at a date that is old,
Today is refastened and burnished with gold;
And next when the future requires it again,
The tie will be strengthened and decked with a gem.
But few will sail over the ocean of life
For full fifty years without trouble or strife;
The breezes too often will end in a gale
That founders the vessel or shatters the sail.
Exceptions there are, that will sometimes appear;
The bride and the bridegroom, behold, they are here.
No signs of a skirmish are left to our sight,
As each has been governed by duty and right.
Their evening of life may be made to adorn
And finish the duties neglected at morn.
Far hence be the summons, and distant the day
When one shall be called from the other away!
We would not desire a decrepit old age
Confined to a chair, like a bird to its cage;
But while there are comforts in life to be sought,
This wish we would utter, — may such be their lot!

EDITORIAL NOTE.

In 1883 a third edition of Mr. Warren's "Life on the Nile in a Dahabe'ëh" was published. A copy of this, with illustrations, has just come into the Society's library by courtesy of his nephew, Henry W. Hart.

In 1884 Mr. Warren published his autobiography (forty-five pages), with the genealogies of affiliated families (Bennett, Schouler, Russel, Wilkins and others), the former containing interesting side-lights on Medford history.

On page 217, Brooks' History of Medford, is a view of his boyhood home when in Medford.

WHAT THE WOMEN OF MEDFORD ARE DOING IN THE PRESENT WAR CRISIS.

As the events of today are making history, it is fitting that the REGISTER record the work of Medford women.

Four societies, distinctly patriotic in character, have worked along these lines many years. The oldest, S. C. Lawrence Relief Corps, was formed thirty-eight years ago, being the fifth in Massachusetts, auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. While organized in the interest of those veterans and true allegiance to the United States, it is not strange that initiative steps in time of war should be taken by the local corps. During the Spanish American war, and in the later Mexican trouble, Grand Army hall was a busy center for work for Company E. In the present European war, preparedness work was again started in the same hall, several of the older members of the corps enjoying the distinction of having engaged in similar work in 1861, 1898 and 1916.

In co-operation with the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness two hundred comfort bags, one for every boy who enlists from Medford, have been made and filled with useful articles. Fourteen were sent to the enlisted boys from Wellington, being paid for by a benevolent individual from that section; twelve were called for, to supply those going from the high school; and the remainder are stored in the armory, ready for distribution, and more will be furnished if needed.

Hand-in-hand in the same work, ever remembering the unselfish life of their namesake, and ready not only to emulate the deeds of their fathers, but to aid others in the service of our country, is Sarah E. Fuller, Tent 22, Daughters of Veterans.

With equal loyalty to the cause of liberty for which their sires fought in '76 are the Daughters of the American Revolution, named for Sarah Bradlee Fulton, whose name has come down in Medford annals as one of her loyal patriots. The Chapter, Mrs. Ellen L. Tisdale, Regent, is holding special meetings every Monday after-

noon in the slave quarters of the Royall house. Their special line of work is the bandages and fracture pillows called for by the local Surgical Dressings Committee in aid of the Allies.

Carolin R. Lawrence Spanish War Veterans Auxiliary is of more recent formation. They too are doing their "bit" in commendable work for preparedness and service.

These four societies, through their efforts to inculcate lessons of patriotism and love of country among the children by presenting flags to the schools and telling of Old Glory and the principles it represents, have unconsciously been giving first aid in patriotic valor to the "Boys in Olive Drab" who are now nobly responding to their country's call.

With the formation of the Medford Branch of the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness in April, representatives of the numerous local societies and churches joined their forces for co-operative work. Much interest is being manifested in its various activities. The membership in Medford has already reached over one thousand, which includes earnest, patriotic women and girls in all walks of life, each realizing the necessity of asking herself what she can do to assist in the present war crisis. Many have noted on cards the particular activity in which they have had training, and stand ready to serve when needed. Others are taking immediate steps in some line to make themselves proficient for service.

The officers of the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness are: —

President, Mrs. M. A. Atkins.
Vice-president, Mrs. Willard Dalrymple.
Secretary, Mrs. E. I. Langell.
Treasurer, Mrs. Charles H. Barnes.
And a Board of Directors.

Committee chairmen are:

Information — Mrs. A. P. Vialle.
Membership — Mrs. H. P. Van de Bogert.

Emergency — Mrs. Charles T. Daly.
Ways and Means — Mrs. L. C. Boynton.
Publicity — Mrs. George S. T. Fuller.
Navy League Work — Miss Katharine H. Stone.
Food Production and Conservation — Miss Laura P. Patten.
Home Workers — Mrs. James Rogers.
Work for Company E — Mrs. Herbert F. Staples.

Permanent headquarters were secured in the Medford building and an information bureau installed, with committee in daily attendance. A list of articles needed for the relief work in France, also patterns and samples, are there for the use of workers who apply.

Mrs. Daly, for the Emergency Committee, has secured the use of several halls, homes and autos, also beds and cots in preparation for any emergency call, and the promise of funds to buy dry food when needed.

The Woman's Navy League Auxiliary began its work the middle of March, but when the Special Aid Society was formed it became one of its committees. Its work has been largely in the line of knitting warm garments for the men of the naval reserve and coast patrol. Already nearly three hundred articles have been sent by the Medford knitters and the work is going on. The Hillside group have made a specialty of knitting for the navy. In addition to the sleeveless sweaters and mufflers sent to the boys at Marblehead, other articles have been supplied to the Naval hospital at Chelsea, the women of the Universalist church furnishing numerous helpful articles and hospital supplies.

With the imminent possibility of a food famine it has been no uncommon sight to see the women and girls of Medford with hoe in hand to help increase the number of gardens and the production of foods, while many lawns and flower-beds have been sacrificed that an extra amount of potatoes might be planted.

The Food Production and Conservation Committee has been alert. Miss Patten has given two courses of lectures and demonstrations on the canning of fruit and

vegetables, and will conduct a third course during the summer. Miss Lura Wakefield has given two lectures on "Meat Substitutes" and "Feeding the Family," also an evening course of five lectures on the "Cold Pack Process of Canning." Medford housewives and teachers alike have profited by these practical demonstrations.

The committee has also aided the school-garden work and offers prizes for canned fruits and vegetables to be exhibited at the fall show of the Horticultural Society.

It is of interest to note that since April the girls of the high school have completed a total of five hundred and ten separate hospital articles under the direction of their sewing teacher, Miss Miriam R. Woolley.

The Medford Teachers' Club has shown its interest by donating a sum of money to aid the work, raised from a successful military whist party given under the direction of Miss Amy W. Bradbury.

Wellington women are showing noticeable energy, Mrs. Joseph C. Smith, chairman. Mass meetings have been held, an entertainment to provide funds for their work, and a successful plan to increase the fund by weekly pledges, with Mrs. I. A. Ordway collector.

An interesting feature is a class of forty girls and about twenty boys who meet in the Wellington Club house for instruction in knitting caps, sweaters and wash-cloths for the French wounded, under the direction of Mrs. E. G. Goullau. Mrs. George Randall has been kept busy supplying the yarn through the Navy League Committee.

The Home Workers Committee supplies material to many unable to attend the meetings but who desire to lend a hand.

The Woman's Volunteer Aid Association (although short lived) did commendable work for the Light Guard at the Mexican border. To John D. Street, president of the Volunteer Aid Society is due its inception. Much enthusiasm was aroused with Mrs. Charles Holyoke president and an active board of directors.

Mrs. Willard Dalrymple had charge of a very successful concert given at the Medford theatre through the courtesy of Manager Hackett. Thirteen hundred tickets were sold and a goodly sum realized for relief work.

Mrs. B. F. Haines and her efficient committee were much appreciated in social service work.

The Surgical Dressings Committee is composed of

Mrs. George L. Bachelder, chairman.
Mrs. William B. Lawrence.
Mrs. George S. Hatch.
Miss Fannie B. Chandler, secretary.
Miss Ruth Carroll, treasurer.

Since starting its work in November, 1915, it has prepared 84,130 dressings, which were sent to the Peter Bent Brigham hospital for sterilization and then carefully packed and sent abroad to be used by all the allied nations. During the summer of 1916 the committee made 2,731 Red Cross dressings, which were stored in Boston for future use. These have since been forwarded for use among our wounded at the front.

Last but not least among the useful agencies is the Medford Branch of the Metropolitan Chapter of the American National Red Cross, organized April 23, 1917, at the Armory, with the following officers: —

Chairman, Mrs. Charles Holyoke.
Vice-chairman, Miss E. Josephine Wilcox.
Secretary, Miss Harriette McGill.
Treasurer, Sidney Gleason.

It started under favorable circumstances with four hundred Medford members who had been engaged in Red Cross work. Others rapidly became interested and now its membership is one thousand plus. Headquarters are established at the library annex on High street, in front of which floats the familiar badge of the original society, a red cross on a white ground, chosen out of compliment to the Swiss Republic, where the first convention was held in 1863, their colors, a white cross on

a red ground, being reversed. Attendants are on duty every afternoon, and much work is given out and the finished articles received by the Sewing Committee, Mrs. Lyman Sise, chairman. Some of the Red Cross groups already busily employed are: —

Woman's Christian League (W. M. Cong. Ch.), Mrs. W. E. Farr, chairman.

Tufts College Auxiliary, Mrs. A. H. Gilmer, chairman.

Woman's Alliance (Unitarian), Mrs. Charles Sawyer, chairman.

Sesame Club, Miss Miriam Clark, chairman.

Catholic Woman's Club (W. M.), Miss Kate Duane, chairman.

Watchful Circle (King's Daughters, S. M.), Mrs. C. L. Carpenter, chairman.

Sarah E. Fuller Circle (King's Daughters, S. M.), Mrs. G. S. T. Fuller, chairman.

Grace Guild (Episcopal), Mrs. Julia Hadley, chairman.

Mystic Congregational Church, Miss E. Josephine Wilcox, chairman.

Trinity M. E. Ch., (W. M.), Mrs. Herbert A. Weitz, chairman.

Union Congregational Church (S. M.), Mrs. Frederick Blandford, chairman.

Baptist Church (W. M.), Mrs. Jennie Lougee, chairman.

Hillside Universalist, Mrs. G. F. Harvender, chairman.

Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and many individuals are also engaged in the work. Since May 8 a total of 1,305 finished articles have been sent to the Red Cross rooms in Boston.

Mrs. Lincoln F. Sise has charge of the educational work. One class in first aid has finished the course and are prepared to receive their certificates. Other classes in first aid and home nursing are being formed.

Unlike the other organizations mentioned in this article, the Red Cross admits men to its membership, but the women's part in it is a large and important one. Following the recent proclamation of President Wilson, naming the week of June 18, 1917, as Red Cross Week to raise a fund, the women of the local branch were busy placing Red Cross boxes in the churches, stores and places of amusement, which received a generous response. One young lady conceived the idea of drafting her pet

dog "Cinnamon" into Red Cross service. Stationed in Medford square, the pockets on his attractive blanket marked with the Red Cross drew many dollars from cheerful givers while passing by.

The graduating class of the Lorin L. Dame school donated money which had been collected for their refreshments of ice-cream. A group of young tennis players arranged a tournament and from its proceeds turned $10.00 into the fund. Many incidents of personal effort and self-sacrifice made to aid in the appeal to Medford for the Red Cross War Fund might be related.

Treasurer Herman L. Buss of the Campaign Committee reports for the Medford Branch $4,516.30.

In telling the story of what the women of Medford are doing in the present war crisis it is safe to say that the half has not been told, for no doubt other local societies, community groups, church circles and individuals in the quiet of their homes are also worthy of record for a liberal share in the great struggle for a democracy embracing the freedom of the world.

ELLA J. PRESCOTT FULLER.

A POSSIBILITY REALIZED.

Eight years ago this quotation appeared in the July REGISTER —

Flying chariots in fields of air

with this observation: —

The realization to these I willingly leave to the people of the future. Terra firma is good enough for me. There are possibilities in airships and submarine boats, however. Perhaps the Historical Society, fifty years (or less) hence, may consider them.

It occurred that on the very day on which that July, 1909, REGISTER was issued the daily press told the story of Bleriot's flight over the English channel, thus early realizing the conquest of the air.

The "possibilities in submarine boats" have developed rapidly and their consideration forced upon the attention of the world. Twice the merchant under-sea boat *Deutchland* made the passage across the Atlantic to our shores, returning with valuable cargo, and awakening in thoughtful minds the query, "What next?" The answer was not long delayed. The ruthless use of the U-boats in the war by the Germans, and the torpedoing of unarmed vessels and without warning, has forced our nation into the World war, now three years in progress. And so it comes that we wait anxiously some new and opportune invention to overcome the deadly menace that in those few years agone seemed but a possibility. From whence shall it come, from air or sea?

MEDFORD LOCAL NAMES.

"Every town rejoices in some euphonious local names. Medford has Sodom, Ram-head, Labor-in-Vain, No Man's Friend, Hardscrabble." *Brooks' Historical Item, 1816.* Ram-head hill is the site of the Lawrence tower; Sodom, or "Sodom-yards," once the scene of brick making (West street), is now covered with dwellings; but Labor-in-Vain is as yet unoccupied, having always been a salt-marsh, but not always an island "in the river of Misticke."

AN OLD-TIME DEED.

Heirs of John Winthrop to Benanuel Bowers. About 4 acres of Marshland, Bounded, westerly by a line beginning at the mouth of a little creek and running from the said creek to a salt pond and from there to a stake down by the river side; and on all other sides by the Mistick river, together with a right of way through the farm to the highway.

Feb. 22, 1670.

Recorded in Book 8, Page 357, June 15, 1683.

This is Labor-in-Vain point as it was before the canal or highway was cut through, making the point an island

as it is at the present day. The little creek was that part of Two-penny brook through the salt marsh. The salt pond was in the line of the canal or highway.

J. H. H.

TREASURE TROVE.

Rev. William Bently of Salem kept a diary for many years, making note of many interesting events and occurrences. Here is one that "seems like picking up money":

In removing a stone wall in Mystic or Medford in 1783, there were found under it a large collection of brass pieces, nearly square, mixed with the smallest coins of Europe, the whole ½ peck. A few round ones have a fleur-de-lis stamped on each side of them. The figures on the others were confused, but represented no character. The stone had lost all appearance of having ever been moved and there is no recollection of the currency of such pieces which appears to have been of use.

Dr. Bently made his record in 1787, as something unusual and of especial interest because of the circumstances and nature of the find. We wish he had told more.

OF PRESENT INTEREST.

Our present issue is a double number, bringing the REGISTER up to date. Because of the Editor's construction cares of the new building, it has been deferred. In our frontispiece we present a view of our new home, this by courtesy of the Medford *Mercury*, which paper, and also the *Messenger*, have shown the same, with appreciative remarks. Another view will be found on the cover page design, including the flagstaff and Old Glory.

As we go to press we realize that war conditions prevail and a whole lot of Medford history is in the making. Medford responded in the Liberty Loan, the Red Cross Fund, on Registration Day, and just now is published the list of "selectmen" who may fill Medford's first quota in answer to the call to the colors. Company E is encamped on the armory grounds, awaiting orders, and all these things are but the beginning.

ol. XX.] [No. 4.

1917

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OCTOBER, 1917

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FORM OF BEQUEST.

I give and bequeath to the Medford Historical Society, in the city of Medford, Mass., the sum of_____Dollars for the general use and purposes of said Society.

(Signed) _____

J. C. MILLER, JR., PRINTER, MEDFORD.

CO. E ON MAIN STREET.

OLD GLORY IN THE ESCORT.

Courtesy of *Medford Mercury*.

The Medford Historical Register.

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NOTES EPISTOLARY AND HORTICULTURAL.

ELIZA M. GILL.

THE sources from which the facts were drawn for the statements herein embodied were the papers deposited by the late Horace D. Hall with the city clerk for safe keeping as the property of the Medford Historical Society, and the interleaved copy of Brooks' History of Medford, belonging to the late Caleb Swan.

The former is a collection of at least three hundred papers, comprising deeds, copies of wills, bills, accounts, memoranda, letters of a business or social matter covering a period of more than a hundred years, containing nothing of civic interest, but showing the business life of the Hall family for several generations.

The book, or second source, rich in manuscript notes and printed matter of historical and genealogical interest, was found among the effects of the late James Gilchrist Swan, a nephew of Caleb Swan, and was given to our Historical Society by a grandson of the former about twelve years ago. The first owner's notes run from 1855 to 1871. The second owner added to these notes in 1886 and 1888. Much of this data and matter from the Hall papers have been incorporated at various times in the papers of the REGISTER.

In 1793 The Revd. Mr. W^m^ Wells came from England to Boston. He lived in the house afterwards of Mr. Eben^r^ Hall in Medford near the bridge.

He sometimes preached for Dr. Osgood. He imported a number of apple trees from England for his farm he had bought in Brattleborough, but they came too late in the spring and he had them sold.

Mr. Benjamin Hall bought some, and he set them out in his garden, a little South of his Summer house. The trees are there now in Dr. Swan's garden.

The above is a portion of what Caleb Swan sent for confirmation to two well-known residents of Medford, desiring their opinion on the subject. We give the replies he received; then another note of Mr. Swan's, evidently a copy of his acknowledgment of their receipt.

The Rev. Wm. Wells left England for this country in the year 1793 or 4, disgusted with the civil and religious persecution of that time, which resulted in the riots of Birmingham and the mobbing of Dr. Priestly, a friend of Mr. Wells, who also came to this country. Mr. Wells brought with him a wife and eight children, five sons, Wm., Eben, Hancox, Alfred and Howard, and three daughters, Martha, Mary Ann and Hannah.

He thought that this new country afforded a better prospect for the eligible settlement of his numerous family, than the old world offered. He came here with letters of introduction to the Rev. Dr. Morse of Charlestown, and his family lived in this town Medford the first year after their arrival, while the father was exploring different parts of the country, with a view of obtaining a parish as well as a farm, both of which he found in Brattleborough, Vt. He often preached in Medford and formed a friendship not only with my father, but with many of the most respectable inhabitants of the town, which continued through life.

His son Hancox was for some years a clerk in the store of Mr. Jona. Porter, Medford, and afterward became a distinguished merchant in Hartford, Conn. Eben was a farmer and excellent citizen in Brattleborough. Wm. the oldest was first a bookseller, the eminent Firm of Wells & Lilly, Boston, and upon failing in business removed to Cambridge, where he kept a classical school of a high order and died a few years since in a good old age. His wife was daughter of Kirk Boott* of Boston. Alfred and Howard the

* Kirk Boott was an Englishman, an eminent merchant of Boston, who lived more than a hundred years ago in Bowdoin square. Part of his estate is now the site of the Revere House. He had a very fine garden and is said to have had the first orchids in New England. He had several children, Kirk, Francis, William, Mrs. William Wells, Mrs. Lyman, Mrs. Edward Brooks, John Wright Boott.

Francis was a physician and botanist of note who spent most of his time in England. His brother William was a botanist of local fame. The former, born in Boston, 1792, died in London, 1863. The latter, born in Boston, 1805, died there, 1887. He spent much time in summer in Medford studying its flora. He was accustomed to pass Sundays and Wednesday nights at the home of his relative Francis Brooks, whose father, Edward, oldest son of Peter Chardon Brooks, married Eliza Boott, 1821.

two youngest sons, died in comparatively early life. Martha the eldest daughter had received a superior education to her sisters, under the patronage of a wealthy aunt in England, to whom she soon returned after remaining a short time with her family here. She married Mr. Freme a rich merchant who lived near Liverpool and her house became the resort of American travellers. Having no children, she came back to this country after the decease of her husband, and as her father and mother were then dead and her two sisters had remained single women, she purchased the old family mansion, added to it and beautified it in every way, and made it a home for herself and sisters. She was the Lady Bountiful of the town, and enjoyed an old age of the highest respectability and comfort until the occurrence of the terrible catastrophe which destroyed her life. She was, however, the only victim of the conflagration in the year 1849, Sunday, May 20. The other members of the family barely escaped in their nightdresses. All the first generation are now in their graves but many descendants remain, who are, I believe without exception, distinguished for their goodness and intelligence.

I never heard the history of the apple trees before, but I make no doubt of its truth. Mrs. Wells was quoted for many years by the matrons here as a model of thrift and economy. She was greatly shocked at what she regarded as the wastefulness of our habits, in regard to food and other items of housekeeping.

Mr. Wells had been settled in a parish in England, by the name of Bloomingdale, I think. After the death of his wife, when he was past 70 years old, he revisited England, and went to his birthplace which he had left when only ten years old even the inscriptions on the tombstones, he said, had been obliterated by the humidity of the climate, and every thing was strange to him. These notices, my dear Sir, will I hope meet your wishes.

Truly yours, L. Osgood.

Mr. Swan — My Friend, I wish I could answer all the questions; but I cannot. William W. graduated at Har. College in 1796. James lived to old age in Hartford. Had one son and 3 daughters.

The son of old Mr. W. at Brattleboro' was a farmer on the homestead. Had a family. Three daughters lived at Brattleboro'. Two unmarried. One married Mr. Freme of Liverpool, and was burned in the house at Brattleboro', the only death by fire.

With respect and esteem

Yrs truly

Chas Brooks.

C. Swan begs Miss Osgood to accept his thanks for her very

full account received last summer of the Rev^d^ Mr. Wells formerly a resident of Medford.

The only wonder is that she ever came to the Knowledge of so many incidents connected with his history. It increased my regrets of which I have told Mr. Brooks that the History of Medford had not been written 30 years sooner when Governor Brooks and Doctor Osgood, and others could have furnished so many items of historic interest.

Thursday Dec. 15, 1864.

From the second source of material some letters came to hand that quite unexpectedly supplemented the accounts given by Miss Osgood of the Wells family. The first is addressed to Benjamin Hall, Esq., Medford, near Boston, dated Birmingham, Cheshire, July, 1781, and subscribed Eliza Worthington, late Loughes. She thanks him for having procured for her stock to the amount of $1,144 in the Union Bank of Boston, and asks to have the amount, with interest, remitted to her, in care of her nephew, J. J. Hancox, who is with a firm of merchants in Liverpool which she names. She writes Mr. Hall she is enclosing her letter in one to her nephew, William Wells of Boston, and has been made happy that day by the receipt of a letter from America, and expresses the hope of seeing her niece, Martha Wells, in England in a short time. Mrs. Worthington was probably the rich aunt alluded to by Miss Osgood. The letter abounds in those dignified and gracious expressions of courtesy common to the letter writers of that time.

At the top of another large half sheet of heavy linen paper the following is written: —

Dear Sir,

Inclosed I send you bank securities for fifteen hundred Dollars. You will please to transfer 143 script, or 1144 Dollars, to my sister Mrs. E. Loughes and send the remainder with those you have in your hand already, when convenience suits, to Brattleboro.

I left my family well last week, and intend to set off for Vermont again tomorrow. With respectful Comp^ts^ to your family and friends I remain your obliged and humble Sev^t^ Wm. Wells.

Hartford June 20 1797

To Mr. Benj^n^ Hall, Sen^r^

Medford

near Boston.

In the center of this same half sheet, which we must notice if only for its very beautiful writing, like copperplate, are eleven lines of writing unlike that at the top, and through the text four oblique lines in ink have been drawn. The writer speaks as having been informed by his father of a bill of £100, remitted through Mr. Hall to James Hancox of Birmingham, which he fears lost or delayed, as it had not been heard of so late as 4th April (no year given), and asks for information concerning it, and concludes by saying his brother and sister join him in "respects to you, Mrs. Hall, and the rest of our Medford friends." Subscribed James H. Wells.

There is another letter from William Wells to Benjamin Hall, Sr., dated Brattleboro, May 3, 1802, in which he thanks his friend for past business favors which he says have been conducted to his entire satisfaction, and that he has given his son William, in Boston, power of attorney to receive interest as it becomes due at the Union Bank, as he is not willing to longer trouble Mr. Hall with this trifling concern. He asks assistance for his son, in the way of advice, should he need it, and further says that in the affair of the interest of Mrs. Worthington's scrips it was a misapprehension of his altogether.

Probably the elder Wells sent the letter he had written to Mr. Hall to his son, who added the explanation which closed the transaction satisfactorily to all, and then forwarded the sheet to Mr. Hall.

A scrap of paper in the Hall collection contains a memoranda of trees bought in New York, and shows the purchase of three early Red Rareripes, three late Red Rareripes, two Beurre Colmars and two Bon Chrétiens. The Rareripes were peaches of American origin, very highly esteemed, and were planted as follows; The early varieties, "one on the Bank, one by Dr. S[wan] fence near the grape vine, one by the cherry tree east." The late ones, "near the west side of the Barn, one in the alley near the grape vine."

The others were pear trees. The Beurre Colmars were planted on the east side of the garden and the Bon Chrétiens on the north. The Bon Chrétien is the pear now found in all American gardens called Bartlett. It was originated in England, propagated by a London grower by the name of Williams, and sent out by him. Its original name was lost soon after imported here in 1799. It was propagated and disseminated by Enoch Bartlett of Dorchester. When the trees fruited they were supposed to be seedlings and were given the grower's name, Bartlett.

Mr. Manning of Salem, an eminent authority, felt that the fruit was identical with an English variety, and the statement he made at that time to that effect he was afterwards able to prove, but it was too late to restore the original name. Till 1830 all trees that had been propagated were from scions in Bartlett's garden, but after that time they were largely imported.

In the early part of the nineteenth century there were several nurserymen in New York who sent out catalogs. It is interesting to look over their catalogs, so different from the large illustrated ones of today, many of which have elegantly embossed covers and are works of art. The early ones were very simple in their makeup, there were no illustrations and some were merely a single sheet or broadside.

Prince's Nurseries, Flushing, Long Island, called the Linnean Botanic Gardens, were then well known. His catalogs give a list of imported trees, and also one of trees obtained from people in the United States, and as we find the Bartlett listed in the latter, from Boston, and the Bon Chrétien in the former, we may fairly assume Mr. Hall's trees were imported stock, quite likely obtained at Prince's. Probably the Bartlett pear found a home in Medford in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Though we have a local horticultural society established in 1913 (January 22), interest in the culture of

fruits and flowers in this city antedates it by many years. "Horticulture had a cordial reception in the early days of Medford, even back as far as the building of the house of Matthew Cradock."

The grounds of the Royall estate were known far and wide, and mention has been made in the REGISTER of fine gardens of a later date belonging to well-known families that were justly celebrated. Some exist today, and in many small gardens fine flowers and fruits have been grown for many years by those who have been unknown save locally, and yet have been deeply interested in gardening.

Medford has had honor conferred upon her by two well-known residents through their interest in horticulture. Captain Joshua T. Foster* produced an excellent peach called Foster Seedling, and Charles Sumner Jacobs originated a fine apple named Jacobs Sweet. These fruits originated in Medford, were extensively grown at one time and were highly esteemed. Change is the fashion of the day, and they have been superseded by others, yet for real merit they were unsurpassed. The secretary of our State Agricultural Board writes me some nurserymen today carry the Foster peach, and that he knows of several persons who are still growing the Jacobs Sweet.†

The peach attracted great attention at the exhibitions of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and won many prizes, both for the originator and others who grew the trees. It was a very attractive looking fruit, and specimens were sold at a dollar each. More plates of this variety were exhibited than of any other, it is said,

* For an account of Capt. J. T. Foster see Usher's History of Medford, page 487.

† The Massachusetts Horticultural Society offers this year (1917) a first and second prize for plates of twelve specimens of Jacobs Sweet at an exhibition to be held in conjunction with the American Pomological Society and the New England Fruit Show. Charles Sumner Jacobs lived at the junction of Salem and Washington streets, where Dr. J. C. D. Clark now lives. The estate was then larger and had a small garden. The tree was on the Washington street side near the fence line.

either because it was so popular, or because the season favored its growth.

This seedling peach tree came up about 1857 and the apple about 1860. The fruit of the latter is of good size, "yellow with a handsome red cheek."

At the time when these fruits were so prominently before the public Medford was also well represented at the exhibition of our State Horticultural Society by the following — Mrs. Caroline B. Chase, Mrs. Elsey Joyce, Mrs. Ellen M. Gill and Francis Theiler. The ladies were genuine lovers of flowers and enthusiastic and successful growers. Fifty years ago they were prize winners at the weekly exhibitions of the society and were known for their skillful arrangement of floral designs. The last, at an advanced age, is still * enjoying the cultivation of flowers, and her zeal is undiminished. Mr. Theiler had the German love for flowers and was the first trade florist here, carrying on the business for many years.

Pasture hill indicates by its name the purpose for which it was early used, and until a late time herds of cows might have been seen grazing there. Today the prophecy is fulfilled made by Charles Brooks — "The hill is mostly rock, and will afford, in coming years, a most magnificent site for costly houses."

Statements made in the REGISTER, Vol. III, No. 2, p. 85, April, 1900, Vol. XV, No. 3, p. 65, October, 1912, and the account of the planting of fruit trees of which we have made mention, show the state of cultivation the south end of the hill was under at one time. The first change was made probably when the three Hall brothers built their houses just at the foot of this round hill that comes down so close to the road (High street). They had gardens which were spots of beauty for many years, and another Hall built his home there soon after, and these four houses, two now standing, were dignified and attractive dwellings for years.

When the first building for the high school was erected

* At the time of writing this, May, 1914.

in 1845, a portion of the hill was cut away and reinforced with granite blocks, but it was many years before the great change was made that so materially altered the face of nature and changed the Hill pasture, as it is called in old deeds, into a residential section. Hillside avenue was laid out through the Magoun land, then came Governors avenue, with its branching avenues, a little to the east of the former, the time for the first being approximately 1880 and for the latter 1890. This caused the removal of the Benjamin Hall house, later known as Dr. Swan's house, and in 1906 the Richard Hall house was taken down and on its site the brick building for the use of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company was erected.

A later generation of Halls built their homes under the east slope of the hill, and in all five generations of this family made their homes at the base of the Hill pasture. The hill fell within the bounds of that large tract of land belonging to Jonathan Wade (REGISTER, Vol. VII, No. 3, p. 49, July, 1904), and the earliest paper in the Hall collection bears the date 1689 and is the division of the Wade estate. A portion was deeded to Andrew Hall in 1743, and later the whole came into the possession of this family.

Large holdings of land by a few fine old houses whose equipments spoke of all the comforts and elegancies known to early days, spacious grounds around them where each one lived the seclusion of the Englishman in his castle, told of the ancestry of Medford's early families and gave the aspect of old England to this New England village. With a but slowly increasing population this quiet rural atmosphere prevailed for many years.

Those who never knew Pasture hill in the old days have missed a charming picture, for as we see it today, crowned with houses, with a broad avenue laid out below, though a fine sight, it has no likeness to the hill of sixty years ago. There was a quietness and seclusion as you reached it by way of Brooks lane that was very attrac-

tive, and the old road at its foot that led through the woods to Stoneham was the place for a meditative stroll.

Let us close our literary ramble through an old book and a box of older papers with two gleanings, from the former a manuscript note, from the latter a newspaper clipping, as they touch topics of today's interest, though not horticultural.

George L. Stearns is an orator in Town meetings, and it is said speaks very well. He spoke at the meeting in the Unitarian Church Sunday, July 2, 1865 for the negroes to vote. He had been in the army with the rank of Major and was some time at Nashville, Tennessee.

The venerable Rev. Dr. Todd, of Pittsfield, says the root of the great error of our day is, that woman is to be made independent and self-supporting — precisely what she never can be, because God never designed she should be. Her support, her dignity, her beauty, her honor and happiness lie in her independence as wife, mother and daughter.

The above is dated in pencil, August 6, 1867.

NATHAN WAIT'S RIGHT OF WAY.

The history of the Middlesex canal has been so ably treated by two members of the Historical Society (see Vol. 1, p. 33, and Vol. 7, p. 1, also map of canal within the limits of Medford, Vol. I, p. 38) that it would seem as if the subject was nearly exhausted. But an agreement entered into by the proprietors of the canal by their agent, James F. Baldwin, and Nathan Wait of Medford, has recently been placed in my hands with a request that I should locate some of the places referred to in the said agreement. The agreement is as follows, viz.: —

Know all men by these presents. That the Proprietors of the Middlesex Canal by their Agent James F. Baldwin in consideration of a relinquishment by Nathan Wait of Medford of his right to a bridge across the Middlesex Canal in Medford, which was formerly a swing bridge, and stood near the house of Abraham Touro Esq. and also all right to pass and repass across and through said canal where said bridge stood, have granted and conveyed and do by

these presents grant and convey unto the said Nathan Wait, his heirs and assigns, a right to pass to and from his land through the said Proprietors land on the southerly side of said canal in Medford, from the passageway or lane (which leads southerly from the canal where said bridge stood) to the great road running from Medford Bridge over Winter Hill in the usual passage way from the great road to the Basin (through the landing or Basin lot so called) and from the Basin on the south side of the canal to the lane aforesaid. Also the privilege of taking gravel from the abutment of the old swing bridge to repair the passageway hereby conveyed in such manner as not to injure the bank or trunk of the canal. . . .

This agreement was dated July 15, 1820, and recorded with Middlesex South District Deeds January 1, 1855. The first passageway or lane referred to in the above agreement is what was formerly known as Brick-yard lane, and it extended from South street, near the residence of Mr. Touro (which stood on what is now the corner of South street and Touro avenue and was demolished a few years ago, his house-lot being bounded easterly by Brick-yard lane), across the canal southerly into the brick yard. The lane existed prior to the laying out of the canal. That portion of the lane that extended from South street to the canal, or to Summer street, as now laid out, has been closed, and the portion south of the canal was known in recent years as Oak street until it was widened and renamed Brookings street. The clay lands were on each side of the lane, the greater portion being situated on the easterly side between Summer and George streets. These brick yards were formerly known as the Sodom yards,* and are now mostly covered with houses. The swing bridge was the connection between the north and south portions of the lane after the construction of the canal and until the agreement before mentioned was signed. There is nothing to indicate the mechanism of this bridge. The canal was thirty feet in width, and the bridge must have been wide enough for the passage of a cart and long enough when weighted

* In Vol. XX, p. 63, these yards were erroneously located on West street.

on the inshore end to counterbalance the portion that extended over the canal. I recollect the abutment of the bridge on the south side of the canal, but did not then know what its use had been.

The right to pass and repass through the canal land granted to Mr. Wait was on the south side of the canal over a passageway thirty-two rods in length and one and one-half rods in width from Brick-yard lane to the basin lot parallel to the canal. The location of the canal was laid out seven rods in width and the way was a part of the location. The basin was an enlargement of the canal for the storage of ship timber floated down from the back country for use in the ship-yards. Some of the timber was transported to the yards over land, and some was floated by the way of the branch canal to the river, and thence by the river to its several destinations. There was another way on the westerly side of the basin lot seventeen and one-half rods in length and one and one-half rods in width that connected with the way above mentioned, and a way thirty-four feet in width on the southerly side of the basin lot. This way was fifty-six rods in length and terminated at the great road (Main street) running from Medford bridge over Winter hill. Both of these ways were included in Mr. Wait's right of way.

The Cradock schoolhouse stands on the location of the basin. The annexed plan drawn from deeds shows the location of these several ways. Summer street, formerly Middlesex street, was laid out over the southerly portion of the canal location and did not include all the trunk or water course of the canal, and thus made possible the house-lots on the northerly side of the street.

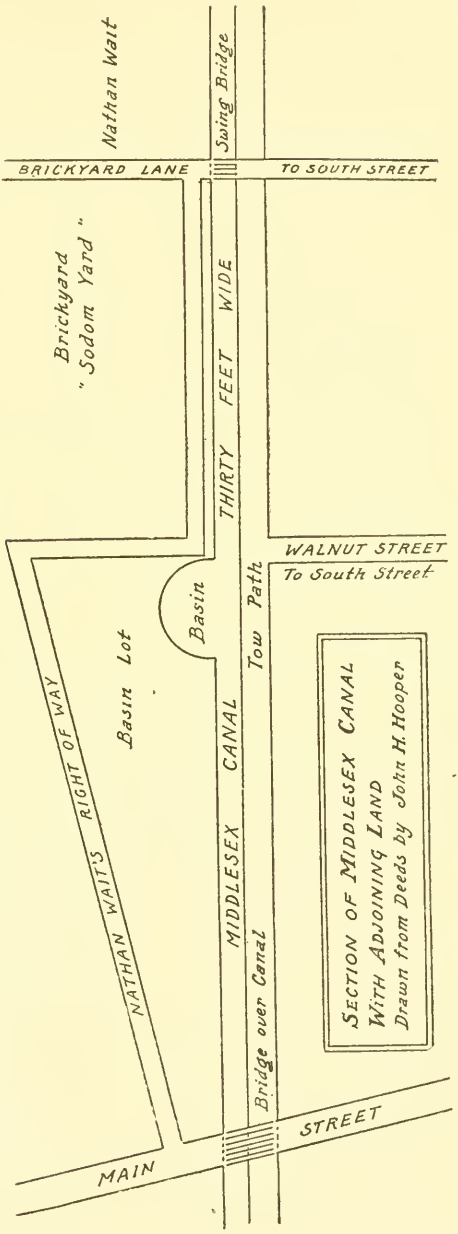
It originally extended from Main street to Brick-yard lane, and when constructed the right of way of Mr. Wait's heirs and assigns became obsolete. In the summer season a party of Penobscot Indians used to camp on the basin lot and make and sell bows, arrows, and baskets, and occasionally a wandering party of gipsies would

camp there, trading horses and telling fortunes. The lot was also used as a burial place for deceased animals. It was, in fact, for many years a veritable no-man's land.

I wonder if any of my readers ever heard of the shipwreck that once was said to have occurred on the canal, possibly on the very section under consideration. I remember hearing of it when I was younger, it made considerable sport at the time. It was celebrated in verse, and was sung to a Medford audience by the clown of a circus that came to town. There were several verses, but I can recall only one, the rest were in a similar strain:

The chamber-maid she ran on deck
And loudly she did bawl,
"There goes my bed and bedding
In the Middlesex Kinawl."

JOHN H. HOOPER.



BOTTLED HISTORY.

We read sometimes of bottled records cast up by the sea; here is one that sixteen years later came to light after no journeying, but once in peril of destruction by fire, addressed to the Medford Historical Society. The following is self-explanatory: —

September 9, 1917.

DEAR SIR:

I was shingling on a job in W. Medford; under a chimney flashing I found this letter which is enclosed. It was sealed in a bottle.

The Finder Signed R. J. DUTRA
27 Garrison Ave.
W. Somerville
Mass.

The "letter" the finder mentions was rolled in a separate paper, on which was written: —

Will the finder kindly send the enclosed paper and this wrapper (after reading) to the Medford Historical Society and oblige the writer.

[Name here.]

West Medford, May 25, 1901.

The street railway track in Boston Ave. was laid this week.

The above was visible through the glass of the bottle, attracting the finder's attention to the following enclosure:

This house (the two-story 32 ft. portion) was the L, or wing of the tavern belonging to the Middlesex canal, and formerly stood between the present Arlington and Tontine streets and fronting on the present Boston avenue.

The writer first made its acquaintance in May, 1870, when he made extensive repairs upon it; the first work he did in Medford. At that time there were but fifteen houses on this side the railroad, between High street and the river, and but two beyond the river on the slope of the hill. The course of the canal was plainly visible, and the ruins of the aqueduct over the river still remained, though the gates and timber of the lock had been removed.

The old tavern was removed from its former location in May, 1889, to its present sites. This portion is undoubtedly older than its larger main house, and sat upon a separate foundation of trench wall, but no cellar. Under the present kitchen was a well, some

of the curved bricks of which are in the base of the present chimney. It had a large fire-place, brick oven, and set boiler for laundry work. These were removed in 1870, and an ordinary chimney built in their place and under that in the second story. Before the removal of the house all the chimneys were taken down and the bricks used in rebuilding. The old chimney stood in the place where the patch of planed boards will be found. The shingles just now removed were of white cedar of fair quality and of the kind known in the market at that time as "shaved," *i.e.*, split from the wood and formed by hand with a draw-knife instead of being sawed. These were laid on the roof in 1870 in the month of June, thus making nearly thirty-one years of service. The shingles *they* replaced were of pine and made in the same way. The boards of the roof at the present show but three sets of nailing for shingles. It is safe to conclude that the original shingles lasted from forty to fifty years. In removing the shingles of 1870 at this time the workmen found one of those removed in 1870 in the cornice. It was much more worn by the weather during its service than its successor.

Near the present location of the house was a willow which was over four feet in diameter when removed in 1889 to make room for this and new buildings. The willow now in the adjoining lot is a sprout from its stump.

The Middlesex canal, which for fifty years was a waterway from the Charles to the Merrimac river, passed along the location of Boston avenue and was, at its construction, the greatest inland improvement of the country. Begun in the closing years of the eighteenth and opened in the early years of the nineteenth, we may contrast it with the means of travel and carriage of this present year of the new century, and wonder if the coming years will witness as much change, and as many improvements.

Just how old this house is we have no means of knowing, but it is probably much more than a century, and has not outlived its usefulness.

West Medford, May 25, 1901.

[Name here.]

At the meeting of the Society on September 24, the above was read by Mr. Weitz, who was Secretary at the time of the writing in 1901, and the papers are deposited in the Society's archives. The writer was then a new member and willing to "do his bit" toward the preservation of Medford history. Knowing something of the old house and its connection with the old waterway, he placed this account of it where it would be readily found at the

renewal of the roof covering. He scarcely expected ever to see it again, much less to receive it officially, or editorially to make note of the same.

In our reprint, the name of the writer is for obvious reasons omitted, but at its reading the President remarked, "It seems like 'chickens coming home to roost.'" There was some delay in the completion of the work in 1901, during which time the railway track was laid near by, and so mention was made of the fact and a new date "25" written above the original "13".

As a matter of present record it is well to state that this house is located at right of the end of Canal street, numbered 81 and 83, and the "larger main house" referred to now at the left and numbered 84. This house was undoubtedly built many years before the canal's inception, as its manner of construction is much different from that of the larger house built in 1802, and which was built directly against this one without removing any of its exterior boards or clapboarding. This was found to be the case on their removal from their old site in 1889. It might be an interesting antiquarian study to ascertain what old Medfordite built and first lived in it.

A MEDFORD-MALDEN MOVIE.

Unlike the modern "movies" this was not a picture show, yet we of today would consider it spectacular, and were it filmed it would cover a stretch of about six miles. At its occurrence photography and even the daguerreotype was in its infancy. In 1843 the Baptist church in Malden built a new meeting-house on the present eligible site. The following year the old one was sold and moved from its location beside the cemetery on the Salem road, to South Woburn, which became Winchester in 1850. It was there used as "a leather shop of some kind." Some twenty years since Mr. Corey, the Malden historian visited Winchester and endeavored to locate

(but without success) the old building in which his mother had worshiped, and who told him of its being "drawn over to South Woburn with a large number of yokes of oxen." There had been two buildings in Winchester used as leather shops which would answer the description and had been demolished a few years before his visit. The probabilities are that it was the wooden portion of the Thompson shop, which stood nearly opposite the Winchester railroad station where is now Manchester field, rather than another on the road toward Montvale. Medford, by change in town lines, is now smaller, and the road the oxen and meeting-house traversed, shorter than in 1844. Building moving of that sort has, by the introduction of modern improvements, become a lost art, and in fact can only now be done in restricted areas and under close limitations. Could this moving picture be reproduced and show Salem and Pleasant streets and the square in Malden, and Salem and High streets and the square in Medford, and Upper Medford with its Purchase and Main streets, what a contrast to present conditions would be revealed. It would be a "moving scene" and "bring down the house."

Though the route through Medford was mainly level, yet at the last the oxen "brought down the [meeting] house" from the height of land in their journey, at present Winchester town line, over the slope of Black-horse hill in South Woburn. That oxen were used in the work indicates that it was loaded upon wheels and made more rapid transit than if by capstan, ropes and pulleys, with small rollers, such as are used with one horse as motive power. Still, it was quite a feat, and one rarely accomplished, and doubtless attracted much notice at the time, now seventy-three years agone.

Incidentally we note that recently (October 15) the Pacific Coast Borax Company's "twenty-mule team" passed up High street drawing a train of three big wagons and a tank as an advertising feature. There were but a quarter as many beasts of burden, and their

load took up but little of the road. With a hundred tinkling bells and their costumed outriders and drivers it was not as spectacular as must have been this old meeting-house moving over the same road, probably narrower then.

The Medford papers have noticed this latter event, but as a current incident the REGISTER preserves the following, copied from a Boston daily, which showed a view of

> . . . the unique team (that fifty years ago used to haul borax from the mines in Death Valley) with its corps of attendants, including Borax Bill, Tarantula Pete (the orator of the team, who discoursed on borax mining, and gave a talk on the need of everybody who can buying a Liberty Bond), and Alkali Joe. The mules are directed by a "jerk line" 120 feet long, reaching from the head mule to the driver's seat. The wagons weighing 8000 pounds were used in the early days to haul borax from the mines to the railroads, 162 miles. In Death Valley the springs are 50 miles apart, so a 1200-gallon water tank was carried to supply water for men and animals. The present tour was organized to give the public an opportunity to view this novel historical spectacle.

SOME UNUSUAL MOVING SCENES IN MEDFORD.

We have in our "Medford Scrap Book" a picture of a moving event which occurred on February 18, 1908, when an irregular block of Milford granite was by a "horse battalion," carried from West Medford to Wildwood Cemetery in Winchester. It was something out of the usual course of events and worthy of permanent record in Medford annals. Brought by rail to Tutten's granite works, the inscription was there made in a somewhat unique manner by Medford artisans. The letters were deeply cut in the stone, broader at the back than at the surface and filled with lead; thus securely dovetailed in. Weather conditions precluded transportation on sleds as intended, and the season was advancing. So four thick oaken wheels three feet in diameter, on one axle with surmounting timbers, formed a stout truck on

which the eighteen ton block was loaded. This carried the load, while others of the usual type were forward, to which five pairs of horses were attached. Under skillful direction all went well until on the shorter and more level way of Playstead road, it began to sink into a place softened by the noonday sun. Four more horses were procured and the way retraced to High street.

Then the journey was resumed, up hill and around the corner of Woburn, Wyman and Winthrop streets, over the line into Winchester, and lastly by a tortuous and upgrade road reaching Wildwood at dusk, where it was later deposited at the burial lot of Samuel J. Elder, twelve horses doing the work.

Probably there are few living today, that saw a locomotive hauled from West Medford to Malden, through High and Salem streets, by horse-power in the early forties. Though of the ordinary type of those early railroad days, and small as compared with present ones, it was then a novel sight, perhaps never since repeated. It was one of the early Boston and Maine Railroad, came down from Wilmington on the Boston and Lowell track —and taken across town to work on the "B. & M. extension."

We are used to the slow moving steam rollers, but one day the big motor boat *Najocks*, built somewhere inland near Salem street, became stalled in its journey to the Mystic, and the friendly aid of Medford's steam roller enabled it to complete its overland trip. Doubtless others of smaller size have, like ducks, taken to water; but this was unique as to motive power.

One more, this mostly by water. At the time of the dismantling of the plant of the Steam Heating Company on Atlantic Avenue in Boston, the manager of the Chemical Works in the Somerville *appendix* on Boston Avenue, bought an iron tank some ten feet in diameter

and about as tall, and a Medford man who quite often tackled like unpromising jobs undertook its delivery there. An unobserved pipe hole being left unplugged, it sank when rolled into the dock. On being pumped out it floated, and "three men in a boat" started to tow it across the water front to the Mystic. It however tilted at such an angle as to take too much wind and they were glad to get a passing steam tug to "hook on to it," paying three dollars therefor. Once in the sheltered channel of the river they towed their big "tomato can" up stream and under various bridges (waiting some times for the tide to ebb a little) as far as the Mystic Water Works pumping station. There they rolled it ashore in the slack of two ropes, and then overland like a big barrel, to the Chemical Works alongside Medford line. It was there used till the discontinuance of the works. It was bought cheaply enough and the courageous mover more than earned his money, but he did the difficult job successfully.

ANOTHER MEDFORD MYTH.

The rum of Medford though no longer made bids fair to be everlasting — at least the memory of its production. A Vermont town history published only three years ago devotes some space to the building of the local meeting-house, and to the contract for the framing and raising of the same for "180 in wheat" at the current price; and closes with these words.

Ten gallons of rum to be allowed exclusive of above price.

It also records the "balancing of Zibe Tute on his head at the end of the ridgepole, swallowing the contents of his flask and descending head downwards to the ground."

Next follows the Medford myth we refer to.

Note.— Ten gallons of rum for building a meetinghouse in St. Johnsbury may be considered a modest allowance; for a similar job in Medford it took five barrels of rum, one barrel of good brown sugar, a case of lemons and two loaves of white sugar.

Medford we infer, could afford to be liberal with her own peculiar product.

While we have no doubt that the "peculiar product" was here used "to make the tackle run smoothly" on that occasion, we feel that the historian of that Vermont town owes it to Medford to furnish "documentary evidence" of the correctness of his statement.

In writing of the raising of the meeting-house in Medford (July 26 to 27, 1769) our historian says:

"there was no one hurt."

Our fathers did not put themselves into that condition that invites catastrophies.

and quotes from authentic record of *another town* (four years later) practically the above invoice, and adds,

A natural consequence followed — two-thirds of the frame fell: many were hurt, and some fatally.

We have searched in vain for authentic record to verify the Vermont historian's fling at old Medford, published by his town. We commend a *more careful* reading of our own historian's *comment.* Until thus verified, we must consider it another Medford myth.

. . . . . .

Since the above was written we have received from the author alluded to the following: —

I could never have suspected that my quotation from the *Boston Transcript* would be construed to "reflect upon the good people of Medford." I was emphasizing the contrast between "the good old times" of that period, and the sober new times of today when distilleries are made into garages.

The above was accompanied by the more than column article, from which this rum, lemon and sugar quotation was taken. In that article, Beverly, Danvers, Dunstable, Medford, Northampton, Pittsfield and Windsor are alluded to under the title of "The Puritanic Present," and the writer thereof credited practically the whole to *Bonfort's Wine and Spirit Circular.* As the Vermont historian gives his quotation from the *Transcript* and not

from Mr. Brooks, we are led to infer that he may not have read the latter. But evidently some other had, and none too carefully, and as "her own peculiar product" was famous, Medford got all that was coming to her. We have in years past heard people in the cars of northern trains stopping at West Medford, at the conductor's call of "Medford — West Medford," remark, "This is where they make Medford rum, isn't it?"

But until it can be verified by credible evidence that such fatality as is named really occurred at the raising of Medford's meeting-house, we must consider the same, and *Wine and Spirit* inspiration of the *Transcript* article, as added to our list of Medford myths.

MEDFORD IN WAR TIME.

On Sunday afternoon, August 12, the Lawrence Light Guard was given a public farewell, prior to its departure for camp at Framingham, which was on Thursday. The various military and patriotic organizations, with the city government, employees and fire department turned out as escort over about seven miles of Medford streets, ending their march at Medford common, where the soldier boys were addressed by the mayor. The local papers have given full accounts of the same. To these for details we refer our readers. By courtesy of the *Mercury* our frontispiece is a timely illustration of this Medford event.

Our boys got safely over and are now "somewhere in France." Here's hoping they come safely back, but we know they will do duty well and help win the war.

The "select men" from Medford have also gone to the cantonment at Ayer and are in training. The people are responding to the calls for aid in the Red Cross, the Library Fund and recreation help. On the two Liberty Loans Medford did its duty well. Here and there, all about the city, the red service flag with its white center and one or more blue stars indicates that

from that Medford home some one has gone to the colors or is doing duty in the war service. The churches have Old Glory by the altar or "just below the cross," and their service flags displayed with impressive ceremonies. The Scouts are busy. Camp Fire Girls in one church gave its flag with twelve stars, singing "God bless, God keep our men," and older hearts were stirred as in '61 while the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" was sung.

This is but one instance; there are others probably equally impressive and with more names recorded and honored, and we watch the daily news columns with a tense yet hopeful feeling.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

We wish to call attention to our advertising pages and to Medford and other tradesmen who can supply our readers. Our printer has displayed them clearly. That's *Miller*. He prints the REGISTER and will do your work in first-class shape.

Irish the optometrist will aid in reading, if your vision is defective, and with *Moore's* "Won't Leak" you can write a clean order or letter to anyone.

If *Drs. Richardson* or *O'Donnell* do your dentistry you will keep your health and be ready to plant a garden with *Burpee's Seeds that Grow*.

Your house will want good floors of *Miles' Finish*, and *Leavens'* furniture, colonial or modern.

The wool that the *Hallowell* firm sells is the real thing, and when made up will clothe you warmly, but your hats and gloves you can get of *Leahy*, and be ready to ride in one of *Teel's* autos. He has a fine display in that new store for you to select from. Some store, isn't it? *Hervey* has a new store, too, and always was the quality grocer.

Curtis specializes in "Old Royall House Coffee." Of course Medford people want that, and will use *Hampden Cream*, for sugar is scarce, though one advertiser is *Sugerman*. The ladies will be sweet on him, for he's a "Ladies' Tailor."

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Page & Curtin will sell you stoves (oil, gas or coal), do your plumbing, and no end of other things. *Dyer* will install your heater, but it will need coal to run it, and *Cowin* will have that for you.

Volpe has fruit of all kinds, vegetables ditto, first-class, too.

If you need medicines the *Smith Drug Store* and *Washington Square Pharmacy* have everything. Beside, there's *Bowers*, who adds kodaks, and will develop for you.

The *Medford Theatre* will furnish amusement, and *Fash* your ice cream afterward.

If you need storage facilities the *Boulevard Warehouse* has them, and the *Medford Trust Company* a strong-box for your valuables, including the Liberty Bonds you bought (or ought to have). It will be a pleasure to note the time by the new illuminated clock as you go in to make your deposit in the savings department that is paying good interest. Then there are the cathedral chimes every quarter hour that make Medford musical.

Don't forget *Miss Orne's* prize offer, nor the *Mayor's* compliments.

And if all these haven't (or have) enabled you to live happily, why then send for *Gaffey*, who will do his best for you, but we advise you to try and keep trying all the others. There are three others that can assist him, but we suggest you make a preliminary visit to them, they are good to get acquainted with. They are the *Medford Flower Store*, and *Rauskolb*, whose gold-leaf will give luster to your name on your monument, for the *Tuttens* can "put one over on you."

Don't forget to tell these friends where you saw their ad, also be sure to tell others about them and the goods they furnish. Nearly all are Medford people. Why not boost Medford, and help them do it too?

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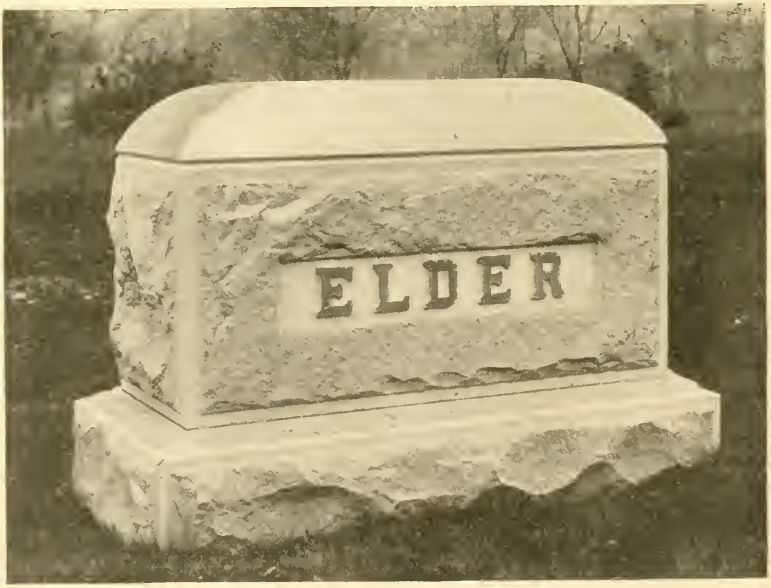

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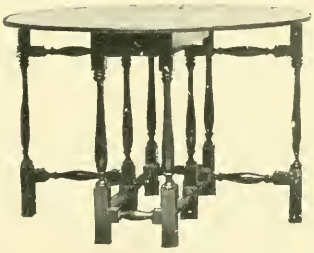

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